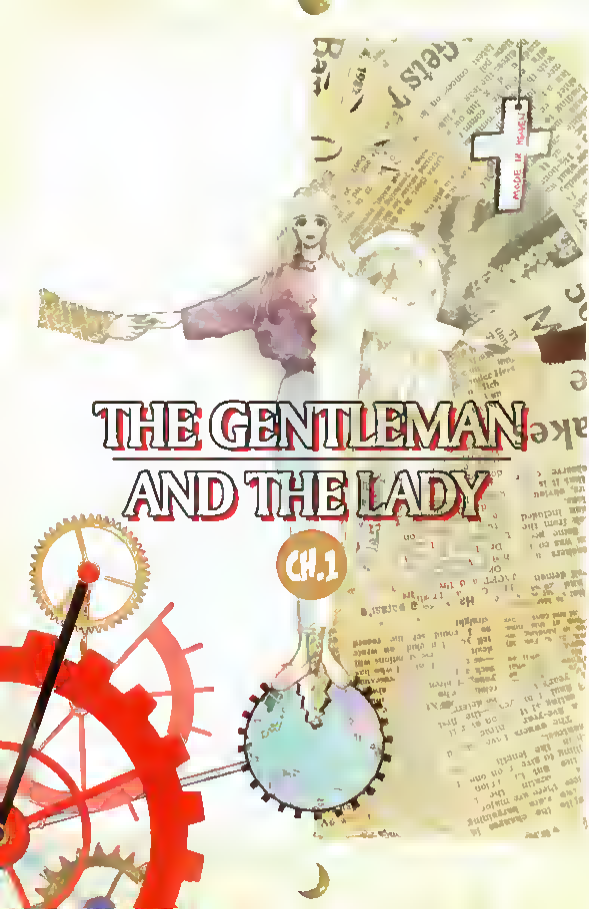
THE GENTLEMAN
AND THE LADY


THE GENTLEMAN
AND THE LADY
CH.1

THE GENTLEMAN
AND THE LADY

I AND KATSUTO KUN
WHO IS A YEAR OLDER THAN ME

AND KOMON AOKI

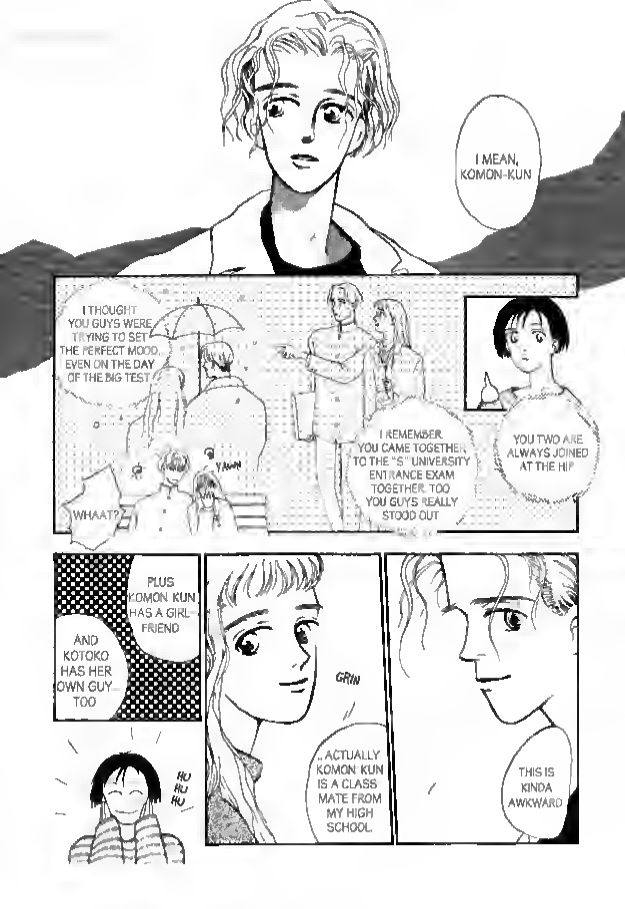
AND IT'S BEEN A YEAR SINCE
WE FIRST MET...

WE'RE A CHUMMY
THREESOME.

NOUN, CHAOS
ENGLISH VOCAB WORDS: ESSENTIALS TO KNOW FOR YOUR COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAM
WHAT'S "DISORDER?"
NEXT...?
NOUN DEVIL NOUN CURIOSITY
THIS IS SO BORING, KOMON-KUN.
WE HAVE NO CHOICE, WE'RE BEING PUNISHED FOR NOT PASSING THE EXAM LAST YEAR.
I CAN'T EVEN GO ON DATES, I'M TOO BUSY GOING TO SPECIAL LECTURES AND CRAMMING FOR THE QUARTERLY TESTS.
THWAP
NEXT? YOUR TURN KOTOKO
WHY BOTHER? YOU'VE ALREADY MEMORIZED EVERYTHING
YOU'RE RIGHT
YOU EVEN KNOW THE EXACT ORDER OF WORDS THE VOWELS ARE LISTED.

KATSUTO IS THE MOST MISERABLE OF ALL. HE'S BEEN WAITING FOR US TO JOIN HIM AT HIS COLLEGE FOR A YEAR NOW
ALAS~ I'M SO UNLUCKY
SAME HERE.
KOTOKO KURUTSU
CAN I TALK TO YOU FOR A SEC?
TOKO
KOMON KUN AND I WOULD HAVE BEEN ADMITTED TO THE 'S UNIVERSITY WHERE KATSUTO'S NOW GOING. BUT
BUT
THAT'S MIKA FROM OUR CLASS
HEY, YOU GUYS. I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING. YOU'D PROBABLY BE ANYWHERE BUT HERE
MEETING INVITATION
CLASS MEETING?
WHO WAS SHE..?

AT OUR AGE?!
YOU SEE, WE'RE TRYING NOT TO DRINK MUCH THESE DAYS.
CHEERS
THE NIGHT BEFORE OUR COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAM, KATSUTO POURED BOOZE DOWN OUR THROATS. HE TOLD US IT WAS A PRE-CONGRATULATIONS PARTY FOR KOMON-KUN AND ME.
THE MEETING ALCOHOL WILL BE INVOLVED, WON'T IT?
DON'T GO, KOTOKO.
H-WELL, IT'S AT LAST PRETENDING THAT'S THE CAUSE, THE THINGS
SO NOW WE'RE TRYING TO GET US ALL TO BOND...
YEAH. WE'VE PRETTY MUCH GOTTEN USED TO THE PREP SCHOOL NOW.
YOUR B.F. TOO
I... DON'T KNOW WHAT THE DEAL IS WITH YOU TWO. BUT RIGHT? YOU'RE COMING
IT'S NOT LIKE DRINKING IS A REQUIREMENT
WE HAD HORRIBLE HANGOVERS FOR TWO DAYS STRAIGHT... RIGHT BEFORE THE BIG EXAM
BARF
BLEECH
YEAH, YEAH, GO AHEAD AND LAUGH AT OUR SHAMEFUL PAST
BARF
HUH?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "I WONDER?" AS IF WE'RE TALKING ABOUT SOMEONE ELSE...
I MEAN...
...YOU THINK THAT'LL HAPPEN?
I WONDER.


I MEAN, KOMON-KUN
I THOUGHT YOU GUYS WERE TRYING TO SET THE PERFECT MOOD, EVEN ON THE DAY OF THE BIG TEST.
YAWN
WHAAT?
I REMEMBER YOU CAME TOGETHER TO THE "S" UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE EXAM TOGETHER, TOO. YOU GUYS REALLY STOOD OUT.
YOU TWO ARE ALWAYS JOINED AT THE HIP
PLUS KOMON-KUN HAS A GIRLFRIEND
AND KOTOKO HAS HER OWN GUY, TOO
HU HU HU
GRIN
...ACTUALLY, KOMON-KUN IS A CLASSMATE FROM MY HIGH SCHOOL.
THIS IS KINDA AWKWARD

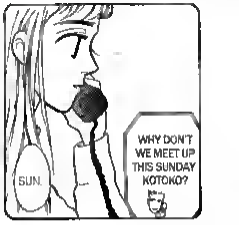
MAYBE IT WOULD'VE BEEN BETTER IF I HAD BEEN CLEARER WITH HER.
MAYBE I SHOULD'VE SAID "KOTOKO HAS A BOY FRIEND WHO'S A SOPHOMORE IN COLLEGE
AND I'M HIS "KŌHAI
IT SEEMED LIKE SHE REFUSED TO BELIEVE A WORD OUT OF MY MOUTH
LEFTOVER BREAD FROM LUNCH
THAT SURE WAS AWKWARD
HE'S IN THE SAME GRADE AS YOU "KOTOKO,
"THIS GUY'S NAMED KOMON-KUN
HE'S A KOHAI FROM MY TEAM
KOTOKO
NEVER MIND THE WAY SHE IS. I DON'T THINK SHE WOULD'VE LISTENED TO ANYTHING WE SAID.
THAT'S RIGHT
KOMON-KUN AND I
MET THROUGH KATSUTO
HI. HAVE YOU BEEN MEETING WITH SENPAI LATELY?

KOTOK
VE C
PH
TSUTO

FLU
FLUTTER
NOT THE WAY I DID WHEN WE WERE BOTH IN SCHOOL TOGETHER.

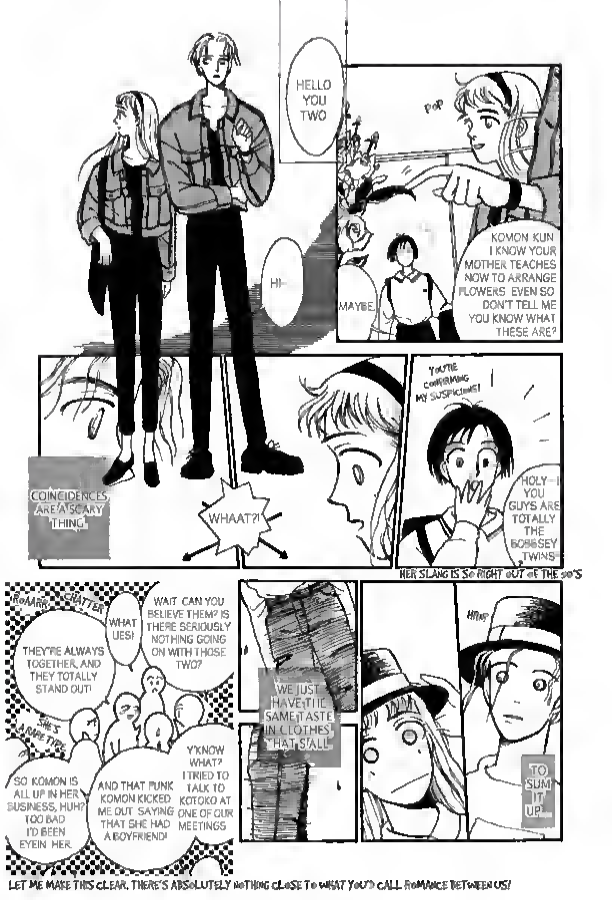
HOW ABOUT NEXT WEEK.
OH. SORRY I'M GOING ON A TRIP WITH THE OL. GANG FROM MY CLASS

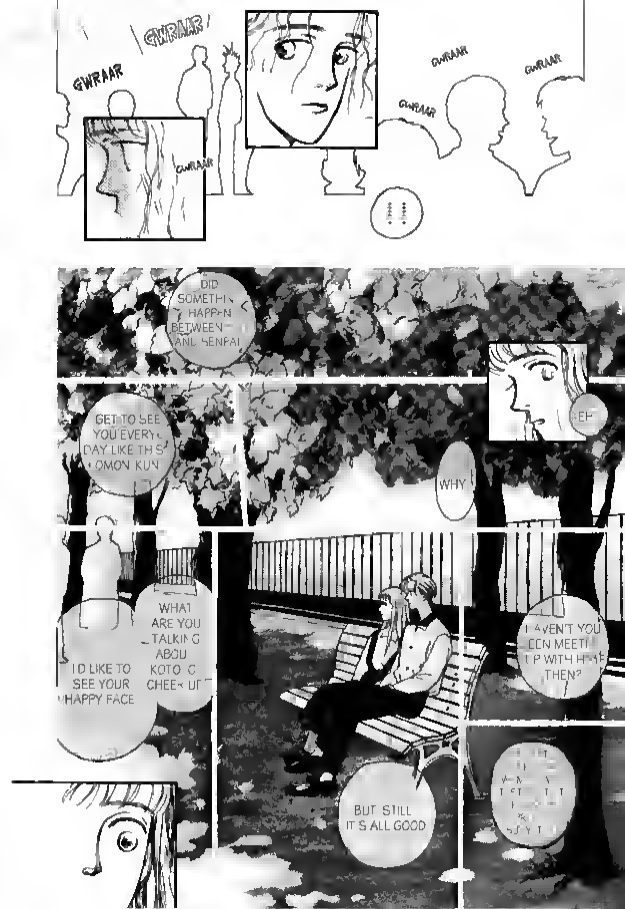
I REALLY NEED TO TAKE A BREAK EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE
SHALL WE GO FOR A DRIVE? WE HAVEN'T DONE THAT IN A WHILE.
OH. WE'RE SCHEDULED FOR A QUARTERLY EXAM THIS SUNDAY


SUN.
WHY DON'T WE MEET UP THIS SUNDAY KOTOKO?

C-3
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?
HEY
HI KOTOKO

BUT IF I WORK HARD I'LL BE ABLE TO SEE KATSUTO AS MUCH AS I USED TO...
WHEN WE'RE IN THE SAME COLLEGE NEXT YEAR.


HELLO YOU TWO
HI
POP
KOMON KUN I KNOW YOUR MOTHER TEACHES HOW TO ARRANGE FLOWERS EVEN SO DON'T TELL ME YOU KNOW WHAT THESE ARE?
MAYBE
COINCIDENCES ARE A SCARY THING
WHAAT?!
YA'TTE CONFIRMING MY SUSPICIONS!
HOLY— I YOU GUYS ARE TOTALLY THE BOBBSEY TWINS!
HER SLANG IS SO RIGHT OUT OF THE 50'S
ROMANCE CHATTER
WHAT LIES!
WAIT CAN YOU BELIEVE THEM? IS THERE SERIOUSLY NOTHING GOING ON WITH THOSE TWO?
THEY'RE ALWAYS TOGETHER, AND THEY TOTALLY STAND OUT!
SHE'S A BOMB TYPE
SO KOMON IS ALL UP IN HER BUSINESS, HUH? TOO BAD I'D BEEN EYEIN HER
AND THAT PUNK KOMON KICKED ME OUT SAYING THAT SHE HAD A BOYFRIEND!
Y'KNOW WHAT? I TRIED TO TALK TO KOTOKO AT ONE OF OUR MEETINGS
WE JUST HAVE THE SAME TASTE IN CLOTHES, THAT'S ALL
HMM?
TO SUM IT UP...
LET ME MAKE THIS CLEAR. THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NOTHING CLOSE TO WHAT YOU'D CALL ROMANCE BETWEEN US!


GWRAAR
GWRAAR
GWRAAR
GWRAAR
GWRAAR
GWRAAR
GWRAAR
DID SOMETHIN HAPPEN BETWEEN ANIL SENPAI
EH
GET TO SEE YOU EVERY DAY LIKE THIS COMON KUN
WHY
I D LIKE TO SEE YOUR HAPPY FACE
WHAT ARE YOU TALKIN G ABOU KOTO C CHEE UP
HAVEN'T YOU CON MEETI P WITH HIM THEN?
BUT STILL IT S ALL GOOD

KOMON-KUN, YOU SHOULD SAVE THOSE SWEET-TALKING LINES FOR EMI
KEKEKE
EMI IS MY KŌHAI AND KOMON-KUN'S GIRLFRIEND
BLUSH
W-WHAT?
IT'S INTEREST-ING
I THINK I HEARD 'EM CALL YOU A CASANOVA.
RUMOR HAS IT THAT WE'RE TOTAL CHEATERS AND PLAYERS.
HU HU HU
WELL, ACCORDING TO ALL THE RUMORS WE'RE LOVERS SO I WENT OUT OF MY WAY TO LOOK OUT FOR YOU
"S" COLLEGE
R R R.
HEY... KATSUTO!
I FEEL SAFE WHEN I'M WITH KOMON-KUN.
I FIND IT INTEREST-ING.

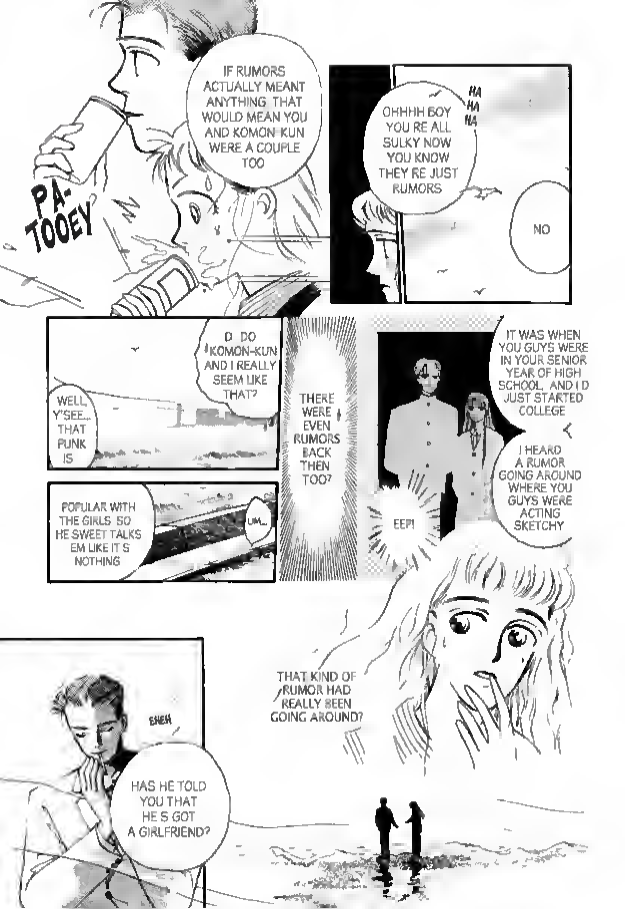
OH
KATSUTO
WANNA GO GRAB A DRINK? I GOT THE PICS FROM OUR TRIP DEVELOPED & READY
OOTA YOU RE GOING BACK? WANT ME TO DROP YOU AT THE TRAIN STATION?
AH...
UHM!
I CAN'T EITHER I HAVE TO HEAD HOME EARLY TODAY
OH
SORRY-- CAN'T MAKE IT TODAY
GOSH!! THAT'S NOT HOW IT IS!!
HMM
OHH I SEE HOW IT IS
C'MON, I WAS JUST KIDDING
REALLY?
UHHP
THAT'S THEIR REAL? WOW, THAT WAS FAST!
SMILE
UHM?
SORRY MAN WE DIDN T PICK UP ON IT SOONER.

HRN? YOU HAVE A DATE?
AH HA HA
DO YOU WANNA MEET UP WITH KATSUTO BEFORE WE LEAVE?
I THINK HE'LL BE HERE PRETTY SOON
DING-DONG
DING-DONG
UM...
WAIT A MINUTE.
WHAT SHOULD WE DO KOMON KUN?
HEY WOULD YOU TWO MIND MOVING AWAY FROM THE EXIT TO TALK?
GRIN
STOMP STOMP STOMP
SUCH TOTAL PROCRASTINATORS...
UGH! THOSE TWO AGAIN...
HEE HEE
KOMON KUN
I'M RELIEVED THAT YOU SEEM TO BE BACK TO YOUR OLD SELF

OH THERE ARE MAD PEOPLE HERE.
YEAH..
S. SORRY THAT PUNK WENT A LITTLE TOO FAR WITH HIS JOKES
I DON'T PAY ATTENTION TO THAT KINDA STUFF
OH! THAT GUY JUST GAVE HIS GIRL SOME ROSES
NOBODY AROUND BUT COUPLES.. I GUESS 'CAUSE TODAY IS SATURDAY.
YOU'RE A LIFESAVER, GIVING ME A RIDE LIKE THIS
SORRY TO WASTE YOUR TIME ON YOUR WAY TO YOUR DATE
SKREEK
IS IT COOL IF I DROP YOU OFF AROUND HERE?
HU HU HU
I CAN TELL YOU'RE IN A HURRY
EH?
SKREEEEEK
HEHE
SO GIRLS LIKE ROSES HUH?
AND ONES LIKE THOSE GO FOR 500 YEN APIECE.
ROSES ARE AN EVERLASTING THING TO MOST WOMEN.

OH... SENPAI!
THAT'S NOT TRUE.
HRN?
SUZUKI UNIVERSITY FIVE? ACADEMY
BEEP
BEEP

I SMELL PERFUME
WHAT'S WRONG KOTOKO?
THUD
THUD
WHOA
CLICK
UGHK
THUD
THUD
YOU GAVE A GIRL A RIDE, KATSUTO
THE CAR SMELLS LIKE IT JUST HAD A BOUQUET OF ROSES IN IT...
ME AND KOMON KUN
THAT'S LIKE
HEH
YOU SEE.. IT'S JUST CAUSE THE PUNKS I HANG OUT WITH LOVE TO TALK
THEY KEPT YANKIN MY CHAIN. ARGH... IT'S REAL AWKWARD
ARE YOU UPSET?
YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD. I GAVE A RIDE TO A FRIEND OF MINE FROM SCHOOL.
50
SHE WAS HEADING HOME, SO I JUST DROPPED HER OFF AT THE STATION.
A FRIEND. HUH.
SUSPICIOUS... SUSPICIOUS...


IF RUMORS ACTUALLY MEANT ANYTHING THAT WOULD MEAN YOU AND KOMON-KUN WERE A COUPLE TOO
PA-TOOEY
OHHHH BOY YOU'RE ALL SULKY NOW YOU KNOW THEY'RE JUST RUMORS
HA HA HA
NO
D...DO I KOMON-KUN AND I REALLY SEEM LIKE THAT?
WELL, Y'SEE... THAT PUNK IS
POPULAR WITH THE GIRLS SO HE SWEET TALKS EM LIKE IT'S NOTHING
UM...
THERE WERE EVEN RUMORS BACK THEN TOO?
IT WAS WHEN YOU GUYS WERE IN YOUR SENIOR YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL, AND I'D JUST STARTED COLLEGE
I HEARD A RUMOR GOING AROUND WHERE YOU GUYS WERE ACTING SKETCHY
EEP!
THAT KIND OF RUMOR HAD REALLY BEEN GOING AROUND?
AHEM
HAS HE TOLD YOU THAT HE'S GOT A GIRLFRIEND?

EH?
BUT HE SAID HE HAD A GIRL.
I'M NOT SURE IF IT WAS WHEN THE RUMORS STARTED SPREADING.
HOW COULD THAT
HA HA HA
THANKS TO THAT THE RUMORS ARE ALL GONE.
EMI WAS JUST ATTRACTED TO KOMON-KUN ALL ON HER OWN.
T... THEN, WHAT ABOUT EMI?
I ASKED HIM IF HE HAD A DATE TODAY AND HE DIDN'T DENY IT
SIGH
WELL, MAYBE HE HAS A REAL GIRLFRIEND NOW.
THWP

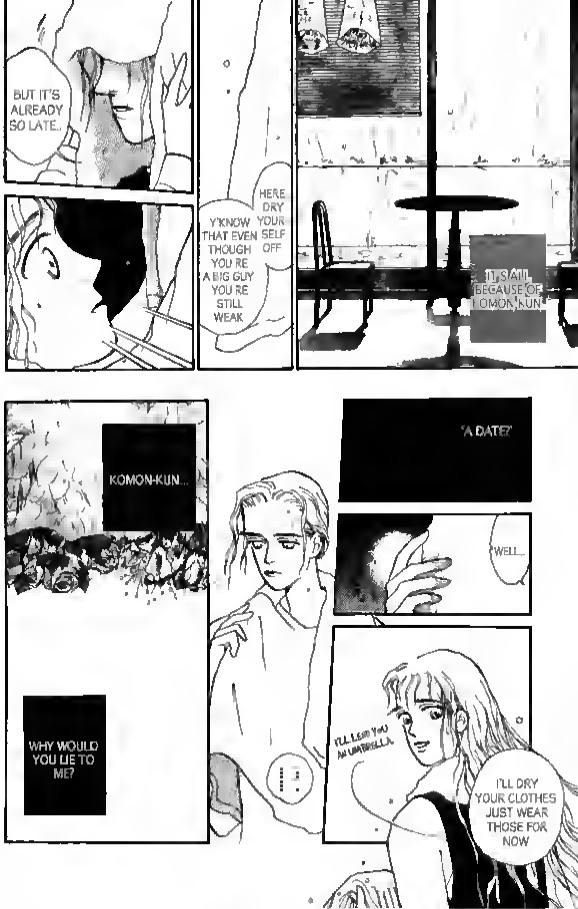
WELCOME BACK!
C MON EVERYBODY IS ALREADY HERE!
WHEN YOU LOOK AT THE PLANT, YOU CAN TELL WHO THE PLANTER IS AND WHAT HE OR SHE WAS FEELING AT THE MOMENT.
CALM YOUR MINDS AND RELEASE YOUR ENERGY INTO THE PLANT.
BECAUSE FLOWERS ARE AN EXTENSION OF YOUR HEARTS

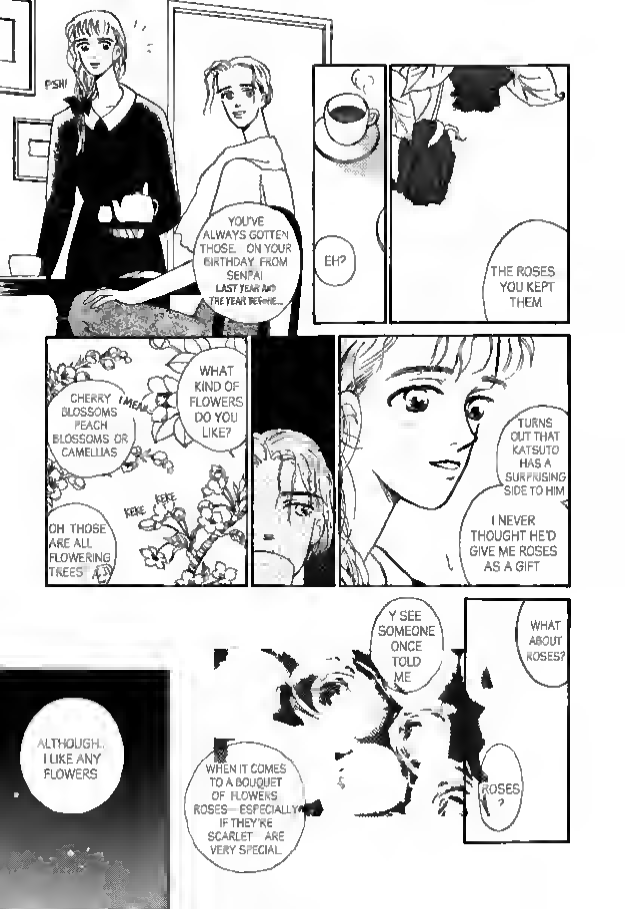
TAK
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT
KOMON KUN LIED TO ME
WE WERE ABLE TO SPEAK TO EACH OTHER ABOUT ANYTHING
A DATE?
WELL
I GUESS IT'S NOT TELL ME ABOUT EMI
KOTOKO ?
AH
SORRY I WAS JUST ZONING OUT
IT'S ALRIGHT
SORRY
WHEN
CAN WE MEET UP AGAIN?

OUR QUARTERLY EXAM PERIOD STARTS AGAIN NEXT WEEK.
REALLY?
!
THANK YOU FOR THE CLASS.
TAKE CARE.
KAMIJO'S MOTHER
OH, NOTHING UH... YOUR PERFUME SMELLS GOOD.
I CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO LEAVE HER.
WELL...
UM... OOTA?
UM...
EXCUSE ME?
ARE YOU TRYING TO PICK ME UP, MISTER?!!
BLUSH
SMACK!!

AW, SO SHE'S NOT YOUR TYPE, KATSUTO?
NO, I'M NOT SAYING THAT, BUT THAT'S NOT EVEN THE POINT!
THERE IS NOTHING GOING ON WITH ME AND OOTA
YOU GUYS SPREAD THAT RIDICULOUS RUMOR ABOUT ME.
EEP!
"S" COLLEGE
YOU GUYS
KATSUTO SAYS YOU'RE HIS TYPE~!
OOTA!
BLUSH
GWAAAR
I GOT 10 GRAND ON THEM HOOKING UP.
RIGHT?
HE HE HE
SHAAA
OOTA, THAT'S SO NICE THAT YOU TWO ARE BONDING
SHAAA
KER-SPLASH

SHAAA
SHAAA
SO WHAT WAS A LIE THEN?
HUHU
WHOA! IT'S POURING OUTSIDE
HUHU
SPLASH!
THAT KOMON-KUN HAS A GIRL FRIEND?
A BATH-TOWEL PLEASE MOM.
WE DON'T HAVE ONE?
SCHWOOP
C'MON IN KOMON-KUN!
AND I'VE FELT REALLY SELF-CONSCIOUS AROUND KOMON KUN
SINCE THAT DAY-SOMETHING HAS BEEN MAKING ME FEEL AWKWARD
THMP
THMP
THMP


BUT IT'S ALREADY SO LATE..
HERE, DRY YOUR SELF OFF
Y'KNOW THAT EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE A BIG GUY YOU'RE STILL WEAK
IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF KOMON-KUN!
KOMON-KUN...
WHY WOULD YOU LIE TO ME?
!!
'A DATE?'
'WELL...
I'LL LEND YOU AN UMBRELLA.
I'LL DRY YOUR CLOTHES JUST WEAR THOSE FOR NOW


PSH!
YOU'VE ALWAYS GOTTEN THOSE... ON YOUR BIRTHDAY FROM SENPAI
LAST YEAR AND THE YEAR BEFORE...
EH?
THE ROSES YOU KEPT THEM
WHAT KIND OF FLOWERS DO YOU LIKE?
CHERRY BLOSSOMS PEACH BLOSSOMS OR CAMELLIAS
I MEAN...
OH THOSE ARE ALL FLOWERING TREES!
KEKE
KEKE
TURNS OUT THAT KATSUTO HAS A SURPRISING SIDE TO HIM
I NEVER THOUGHT HE'D GIVE ME ROSES AS A GIFT
WHAT ABOUT ROSES?
Y SEE SOMEONE ONCE TOLD ME
ROSES?
WHEN IT COMES TO A BOUQUET OF FLOWERS ROSES— ESPECIALLY IF THEY'RE SCARLET— ARE VERY SPECIAL
ALTHOUGH, I LIKE ANY FLOWERS

RRRRING
RRRRING
BECAUSE FLOWERS ARE AN EXTENSION OF YOUR HEARTS
BAP
WHOOSH
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WITH FREE TIME KATSUTO
GIVE OOTA A RIDE.
I HAVE FLOWER ARRANGING CLASS TODAY
OH! I'VE GOT SOMETHING GOING ON.
ME TOO
ME THREE! PLUS IT'S SUPPOSED TO RAIN LATER.
WHERE ARE WE OFF TO TODAY?
S...BYE...
URN
SNICKER SNICKER
WE ALREADY KNOW YOU HAVE OOTA ARE MITEM.
BYE NOW, ONTAI

SO MESSED UP THOSE PUNKS ARE GONNA HAVE A BLAST DISHING OUT THE GOSSIP ON US!
KATSUTO SAYS YOU'RE HIS TYPE, OOTA!
BWA HA HA
SERIOUSLY YOU CAN SEE RIGHT THROUGH THEIR SCHEMES
AH
WELL, REALLY. MAYBE THEY JUST WANT US TO LIVE UP TO THEIR EXPECTA TIONS
HUH?
SKREEECH!
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
I THINK I DROPPED MY EARRING OR SOME THING
DID YOU FIND IT?
UHH! IT'S RIGHT HERE. GOT IT
SORRY 'BOUT THAT...

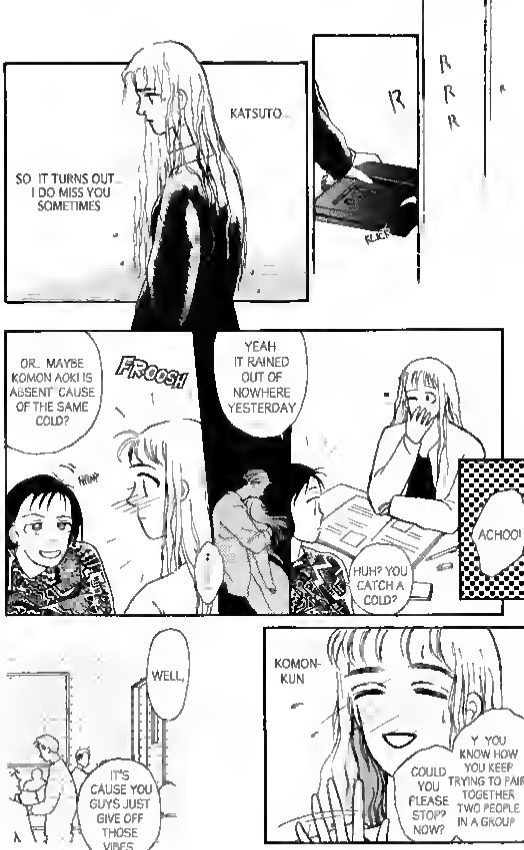
I LIKE YOU.
AH.
I'VE FELT THIS WAY ABOUT YOU FOR A REALLY LONG TIME...
ACK!
INSTRUCTOR AOKI... HOW 'BOUT THESE FOR THE NEXT CLASS?
THEY JUST ARRIVED TODAY!
FLOWER & GIFT
FLOWER & GIFT
...YEAH

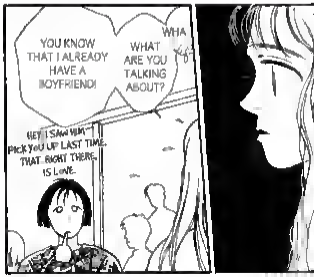
KOMON-KUN!
WHAT HAPPENED? WHY ARE YOU SOAKING WET?
SHAA
I... CAME TO RETURN YOUR UMBRELLA
ARE YOU DRUNK?
YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO! YOU PROMISED YOU WOULDN'T DRINK!
KOMON-KUN?

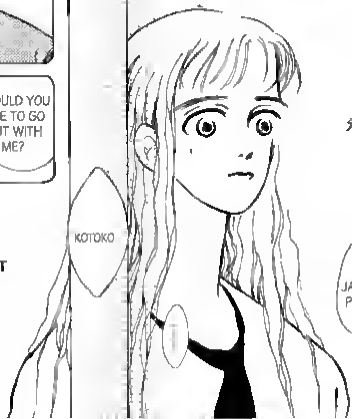
KOMON-KUN!
HAAH
HAAH
HAAH
WHAT'S WRONG?
YOU'RE NOT THE KOMON-KUN I KNOW!
I SAID, IT'S NOTHING
YOU'VE ALWAYS LISTENED TO MY PROBLEMS
You're comin. CATCH A C.d.D.
SHAAAAA

TIGHT
I LIKE YOU, KOTOKO...
THUD

THWAP
THMP
THMP
SHAAAAA


SO IT TURNS OUT... I DO MISS YOU SOMETIMES
KATSUTO...
R
R
R
R
KLICK
YEAH IT RAINED OUT OF NOWHERE YESTERDAY
OR... MAYBE KOMON AOKI IS ABSENT CAUSE OF THE SAME COLD?
FROOSH
HMMP
?
HUH? YOU CATCH A COLD?
ACHOO!
KOMON-KUN
COULD YOU PLEASE STOP? NOW?
Y YOU KNOW HOW YOU KEEP TRYING TO PAIR TOGETHER TWO PEOPLE IN A GROUP
WELL,
IT'S CAUSE YOU GUYS JUST GIVE OFF THOSE VIBES


YOU KNOW THAT I ALREADY HAVE A BOYFRIEND!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WHA
HEY, I SAW HIM PICK YOU UP LAST TIME. THAT RIGHT THERE IS LOVE.
YOU TWO! YOU JUST LOOK LIKE YOU MATCH UP TOGETHER PERFECTLY!
WHAT VIBES?



—DOES ALL THIS MEAN THAT I DON'T HAVE FEELINGS FOR KATSUTO?

HE'S SWEET FUN
POPULAR,
AND HE'S THE VERY FIRST GUY TO EVER APPROACH ME LIKE THAT...
...EVEN WITH ALL THAT...
HE DOESN'T HAVE MY HEART?
AH

SNIP
SO YOU CAN MAKE SURE TO BRING OUT THE ABUNDANCE OF THIS BRANCH?
KOMORI KUN YOU HAVE A GUEST
WHO IS IT?
OH, DROP THAT BRANCH JUST A TAD LOWER.

SPLASH!

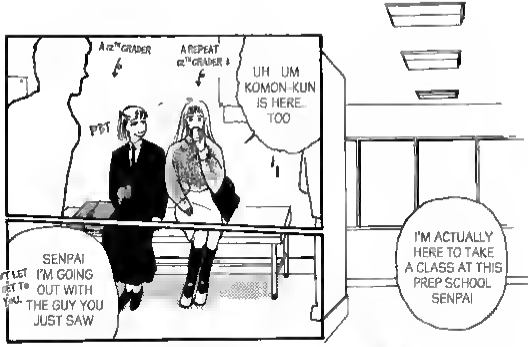
KOTOKO?

WHY IS IT...?
I DIDN'T MEAN TO COME HERE
I WASN'T THINKING THAT I MISSED HIM
BUT WHEN I COULD THINK STRAIGHT...
DRRRR
I JUST FOUND MYSELF HERE.
I DIDN'T MEAN TO SHOW YOU SUCH A WEIRD SIDE OF MYSELF

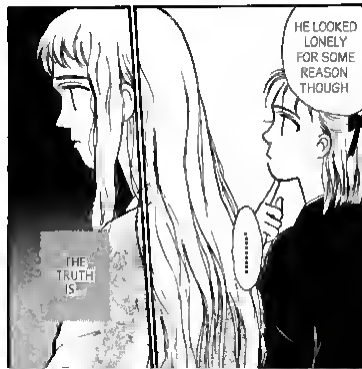
SORRY ABOUT YESTER DAY
YEAH I FILL IN FOR HER SOME TIMES
THAT YOU RE TEACHING HER FLOWER ARRANGING CLASS
I HEARD FROM YOUR MOM
UM YOU LOOK GOOD N KIMONOS
DID SOME THING HAPPEN?
FLINCH
...HE'S LYING
BUT, PLEASE FORGET ABOUT IT
I... DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I SAID BECAUSE I WAS DRUNK...

THAT I COULDN'T COME TO HIM...
EVEN WHEN I SAW SUCH A THING...
IT'S SENPAI ISN'T IT?
WHATEVER IT IS, TELL ME, KOTOKO! OKAY?
I KNOW FOR SURE IT'LL MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER
WHY IS IT...
THERE WAS SOMETHING!!
OF COURSE I CAN'T TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED!
KOTOKO!!

SUZUKI UNIVERSITY PREP ACADEMY
HI SENPAI KOTOKO!
OH! EMI?
NOD
NOT ANYMORE
I WON'T TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED


A 12TH GRADER
A REPEAT 12TH GRADER
PBT
UH UM KOMON-KUN IS HERE... TOO
SENPAI I'M GOING OUT WITH THE GUY YOU JUST SAW
DON'T LET IT GET TO YA!
I'M ACTUALLY HERE TO TAKE A CLASS AT THIS PREP SCHOOL SENPAI

IF YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT KOMON-KUN I ONLY BUMPED INTO HIM JUST NOW
PBT
YOU HAD TO LET IT GET TO YOU.
PBT
EH?!
OH...


HE LOOKED LONELY FOR SOME REASON THOUGH
.....
THE TRUTH IS...

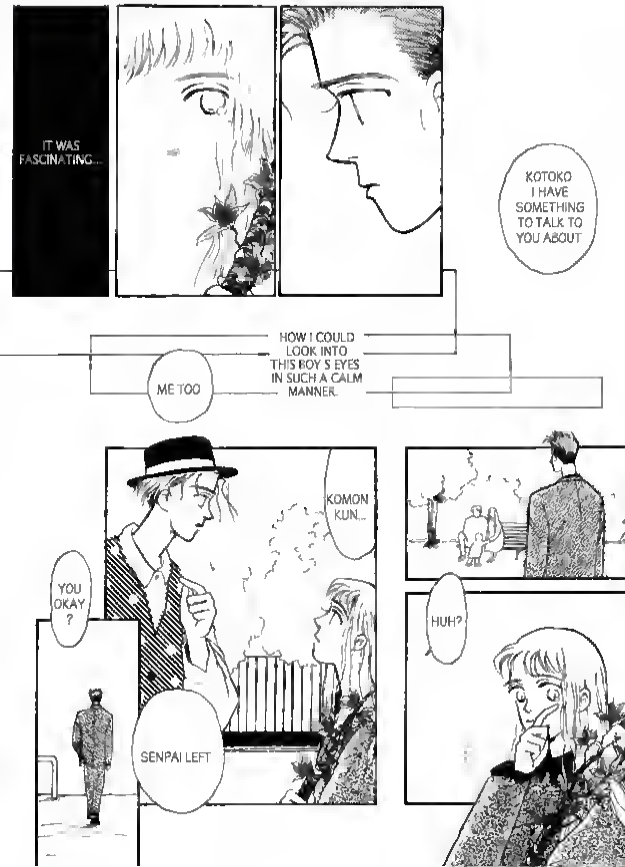
I HAVEN'T REALLY TALKED TO KOMON-KUN SINCE THAT DAY.

BECAUSE THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO IN THE SITUATION I'M CAUGHT IN RIGHT NOW
BECAUSE KOMON KUN'S SWEET LIES ARE TOO HEART BREAKING
I TOLD YOU, WE WERE NEVER LIKE THAT
HEY, DID YOU AND KOMON BREAK UP??
KOTOKO ?
WHERE DO YOU WANNA GO?
ANY WHERE IS FINE.
YOUR BIRTHDAY'S COMING UP NEXT SUNDAY
SO, THE CHUMMY THREESOME...
WENT THEIR SEPARATE WAYS

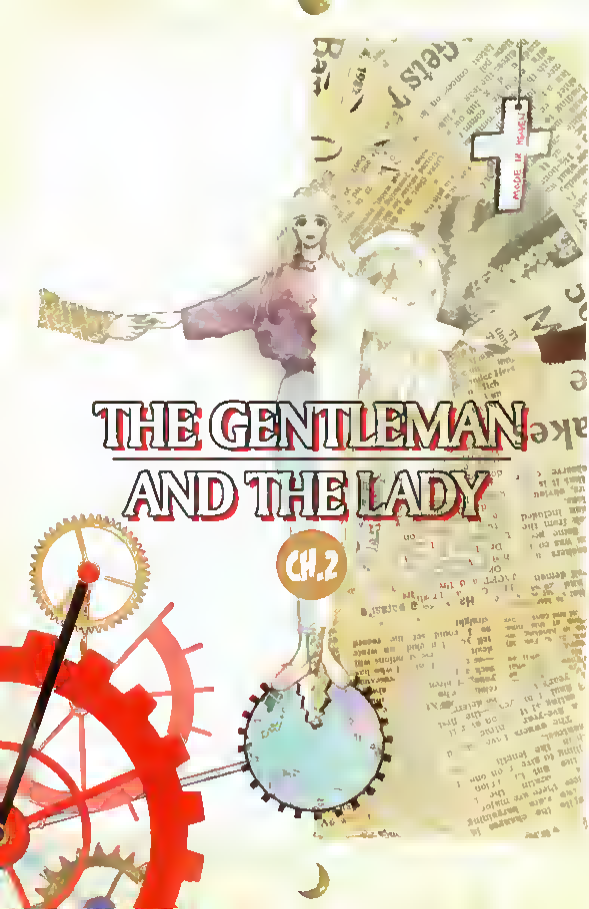
3 PEOPLE GET TOGETHER EVERY YEAR.
KOTOKO
BUT THAT RITUAL ENDED TODAY
MAY 14TH MY BIRTHDAY
HAPPY BIRTHDAY
THIS IS ALREADY YOUR THIRD BIRTHDAY THAT I'VE CELEBRATED WITH YOU
KER-PLOP
„CHERRY BLOSSOMS?!

'WHAT KIND OF FLOWERS DO YOU LIKE?'
'CHERRY BLOSSOMS, PEACH BLOSSOMS, OR CAMELLIAS...
'OH, THOSE ARE ALL FLOWERING TREES!
YOU DON'T LIKE THEM?
I KNEW IT.
I SAW THAT ONE COMING...
!!!
ALTHOUGH I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING AT THAT MOMENT...
I THOUGHT THE TREE WAS KOMORI-KUN.
PERHAPS I'VE KNOWN IT ALL THIS TIME.
AH...

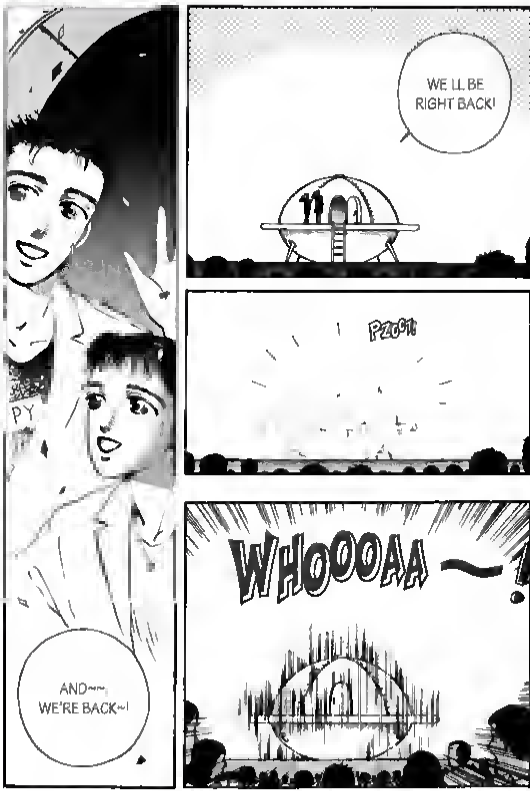
THE MOMENT THAT THOUGHT CROSSED MY MIND
I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO FACE THE DEPTHS OF MY TRUE FEELINGS.

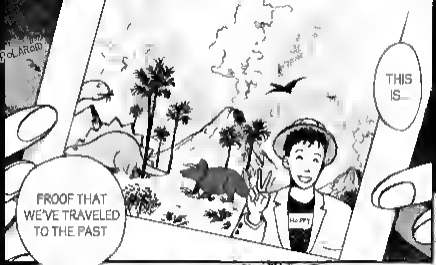

IT WAS FASCINATING...
KOTOKO I HAVE SOMETHING TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT
HOW I COULD LOOK INTO THIS ROY'S EYES IN SUCH A CALM MANNER.
ME TOO
KOMON KUN...
YOU OKAY ?
SENPAI LEFT
HUH?

UM... WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE A SEAT?
BLUSH
THANKS FOR THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS
KOMON KUN'S HAND WHICH I GRASPED FOR THE FIRST TIME
WAS WARM


THE GENTLEMAN
AND THE LADY
CH.2

DR. URASHIMA'S TREASURE CHEST


WE LL BE RIGHT BACK!
PZOSH
WHOOOAA ~!
AND~~, WE'RE BACK~!



1988年

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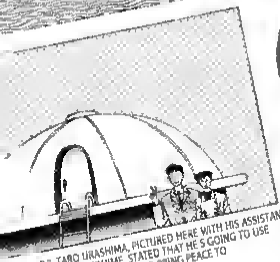
AN UNPRECEDENTED ACHIEVEMENT!

HISTORIC 1ST FIRST!

TIME MACHINE BROUGHT TO COMPLETION!



▲ DR. TARO URASHIMA, PICTURED HERE WITH HIS ASSISTANT TOSHIRO OTOHIME, STATED THAT HE'S GOING TO USE THIS INVENTION TO "HELP BRING PEACE TO OUR GREAT COUNTRY!"

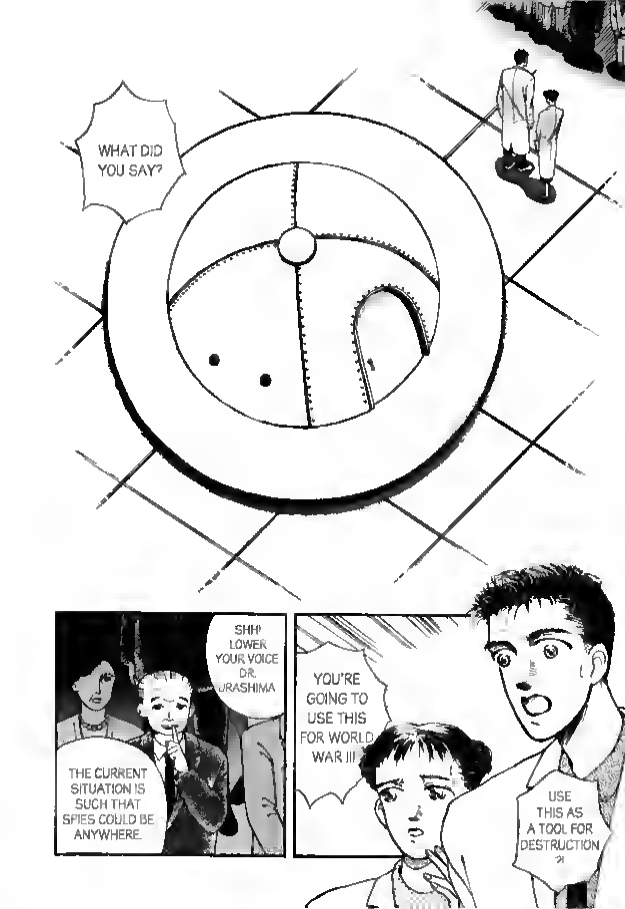
DR. URASHIMA (30)! THE YOUNG SCIENTIST RESPONSIBLE FOR INVENTING THE TIME MACHINE

TARO URASHIMA,

URASHIMA'S THEORY FLIPS EARLIER RESEARCH ON ITS HEAD!
THIS SCHOLAR IS A SURE CANDIDATE TO BECOME THE NEXT LAUREATE TO RECEIVE THE NOBORU AWARD IN PHYSICS

INQUIRIES POUR IN FROM THE EASTERN HEMISPHERE,
ALL THE WAY AROUND THE GLOBE FROM THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE!

THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT SHOWS STRONG SUPPORT
OF THIS PROJECT


WHAT DID YOU SAY?
SHH! LOWER YOUR VOICE DR. URASHIMA
THE CURRENT SITUATION IS SUCH THAT SPIES COULD BE ANYWHERE.
YOU'RE GOING TO USE THIS FOR WORLD WAR III
USE THIS AS A TOOL FOR DESTRUCTION

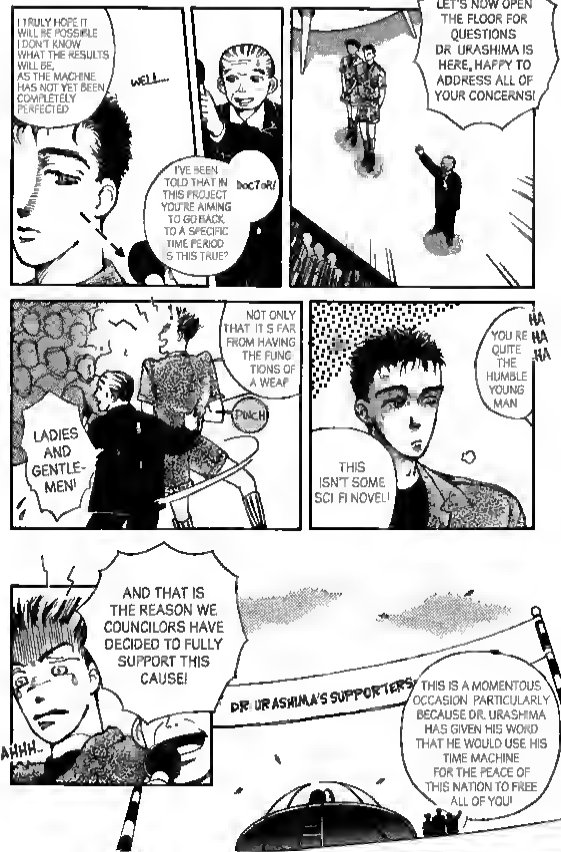
EVERYONE TALKS ABOUT DISARMAMENT... YET WE'RE ALL STILL COMPETING, TRYING TO BUILD MORE BOMBS... AND WE, ESPECIALLY, ARE TROUBLED WITH THE FACT THAT WE EXIST WITHIN THE CREVICE OF THE POWERFUL NATIONS FROM BOTH HEMISPHERES.
THE GLOBAL SITUATION IS GROWING TENSER BY THE DAY.
I'M NOT MAKING A HAP HAZARD DECISION.
AHEM
THE DECISION HAS BEEN MADE BY OUR GOVERNMENT'S TOP ORGANIZATION AN ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILORS
THEREFORE, DR. URASHIMA, YOUR WONDERFUL INVENTION IS A BEACON OF HOPE FOR OUR WEAK NATION
W...WAIT PLEASE! COUNCILOR NOBORU...
WARRANT OF ATTORNEY
TO NOBORU
YOU MUST TAKE CARE OF THIS MATTER AT ONCE I LEAVE IT UP TO YOU
FROM, YASURO KAJIWADON
HE HAS EXPRESSED A REAL DESIRE TO BORROW FROM YOUR ABILITIES DR. URASHIMA.
THE SENIOR COUNCILOR IS HOPING FOR THIS AS WELL.
DO NOT WORRY THE PARLIAMENT WON'T BE CHEAP IN THEIR SUPPORT!
I CAN'T FATHOM THIS ONE BIT! I CAN'T EVEN COMPREHEND MY TIME MACHINE BEING USED AS A WEAPON!

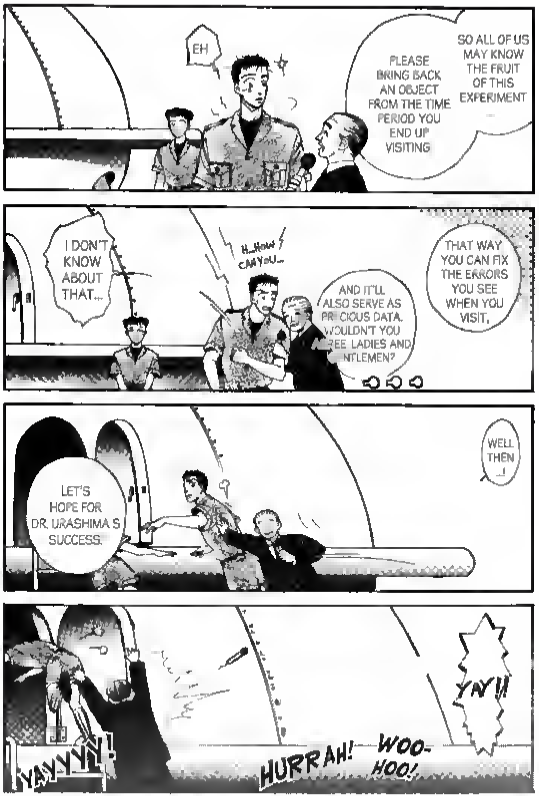
WHAT'S MORE, IS THAT THIS TIME IT'LL BE A NEVER-ENDING PARADE OF ATOMIC AND HYDROGEN BOMBS. ALL OUR CITIZENS NO... THE ENTIRE HUMAN RACE WILL BE WIPED OUT
JAPAN IS NOTHING MORE THAN A POWERLESS NATION.. A NATION WITH NOTHING BUT TECHNOLOGY
IMAGINE A SITUATION WHERE A WAR HAS BEGUN.
KA-BOOM!
KA-BOOM!
I'M SAYING WE NEED TO TAKE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES BEFORE THAT HAPPENS. IT WOULD BE GREAT IF YOU'D GO TO AN APPROPRIATE TIME IN THE FUTURE... AND LEARN WHAT MEASURES THE CONQUERING NATIONS TOOK. OBSERVE WHAT STRATEGIES THEY USED TO WIN THE WAR.
ARE YOU TELLING ME TO TURN THE MACHINE INTO NOAH'S ARK AND TO PUT OUR COUNTRY'S ENTIRE POPULATION.
ARE YOU TELLING ME TO BECOME AN ERRAND BOY WHO CHANGES THE SHAPE OF HISTORY?
MOST IMPORTANTLY, THAT WILL MINIMIZE *OUR* NATION'S LOSSES.
AFTER THAT, YOU MAY RETURN TO THE PRESENT WORLD AND WE CAN REENACT THOSE STRATEGIES ONCE THE WAR ACTUALLY BEGINS.
OH MY!!

IT'S NOT SIMPLY FOR THE GOOD OF JAPAN
IN OTHER WORDS, THIS IS WHAT YOU WOULD CALL USING YOUR TIME MACHINE FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES WOULDN'T YOU AGREE?
THEN THE WORLD WILL SUFFER LESS HARM
THE FASTER WE AFFIRM THE WINNER AND LOSER,
AND TO ENSURE THERE IS NO UNDUE DISOBEDIENCE.
IT IS ALSO TO AVOID WORLD RUIN.

TARO
I FEEL THE WAY NOBORU MUST HAVE FELT AFTER INVENTING DYNAMITE TOSHIRO
DR. URASHIMA'S SUPPORTERS

SOMEHOW ALL THIS MAKES ME FEEL LIKE THE MACHINE ISN'T EVEN MINE...
I MEAN I'D SAID THAT WE'D GO ON OUR HONEYMOON IN IT...


I TRULY HOPE IT WILL BE POSSIBLE I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE RESULTS WILL BE, AS THE MACHINE HAS NOT YET BEEN COMPLETELY PERFECTED
WELL...
I'VE BEEN TOLD THAT IN THIS PROJECT YOU'RE AIMING TO GO BACK TO A SPECIFIC TIME PERIOD IS THIS TRUE?
DOCTOR!
LET'S NOW OPEN THE FLOOR FOR QUESTIONS DR. URASHIMA IS HERE, HAPPY TO ADDRESS ALL OF YOUR CONCERNS!
LADIES AND GENTLE-MEN!
NOT ONLY THAT IT'S FAR FROM HAVING THE FUNC TIONS OF A WEAP
POW!
THIS ISN'T SOME SCI FI NOVEL!
YOU'RE QUITE THE HUMBLE YOUNG MAN
HA HA HA
AHHH..
AND THAT IS THE REASON WE COUNCILORS HAVE DECIDED TO FULLY SUPPORT THIS CAUSE!
DR. URASHIMA'S SUPPORTERS!
THIS IS A MOMENTOUS OCCASION PARTICULARLY BECAUSE DR. URASHIMA HAS GIVEN HIS WORD THAT HE WOULD USE HIS TIME MACHINE FOR THE PEACE OF THIS NATION TO FREE ALL OF YOU!

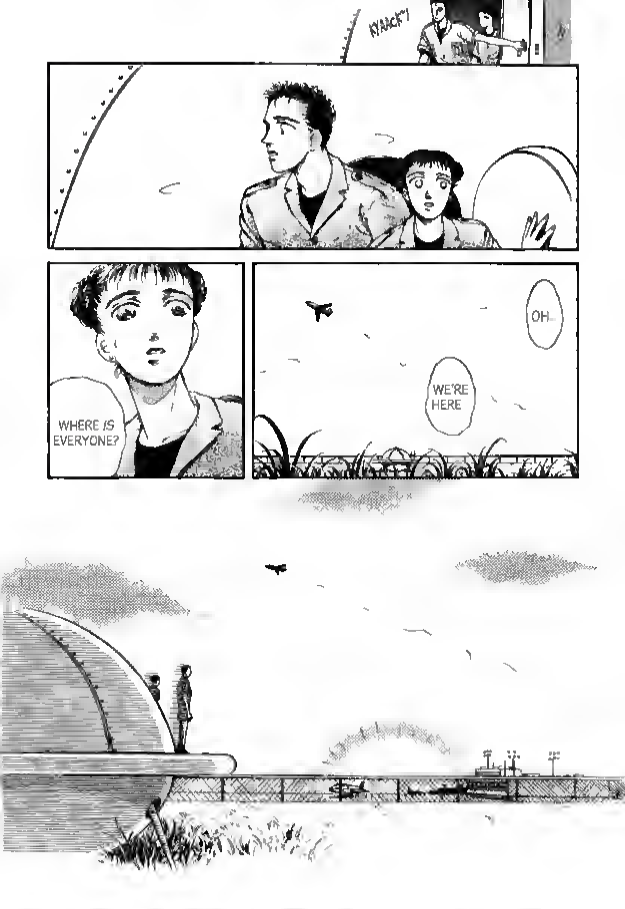

EH
PLEASE BRING BACK AN OBJECT FROM THE TIME PERIOD YOU END UP VISITING
SO ALL OF US MAY KNOW THE FRUIT OF THIS EXPERIMENT
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT...
H-How can you...
AND IT'LL ALSO SERVE AS PRECIOUS DATA. WOULDN'T YOU AGREE, LADIES AND NTLEMEN?
THAT WAY YOU CAN FIX THE ERRORS YOU SEE WHEN YOU VISIT.
LET'S HOPE FOR DR. URASHIMA'S SUCCESS.
WELL THEN...!
YAYYY!
HURRAH!
WOO-HOO!
YAY!!

GWRAR—
HA
HA
HA
EARTH TO TARO!
TARO!
MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH
KYAHHA! I THINK THIS DINOSAUR LIKES CARROTS
IT'S JUST THAT THERE WAS SOMETHING CONVINCING ABOUT WHAT HE SAID EVEN THOUGH I CAN'T DESCRIBE IT
Whoosh
I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL RIGHT NOW BUT YOU NEVER TOLD THE OLD MAN "NO."
WELL, WE HAVE SUCCEEDED WITH THIS EXPERIMENT

AT THIS RATE WE DON'T KNOW WHEN THOSE PEOPLE ARE GONNA START A WAR.
WELL, LET'S USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO USE THE COUNCILOR'S SUPPORT TO OUR ADVANTAGE
BEFORE THAT EVER HAPPENS LET'S FINISH THIS THING
PAP
AND JUST JET OFF TO ANOTHER TIME PERIOD
I GUESS THAT JUST WON'T BE POSSIBLE FOR YOU TARO
PAP
IS THAT WHAT YOU THOUGHT I WAS SAYING?
IT'S A GOOD IDEA, ISN'T IT?
YOU YOU YOU'RE GONNA JUST WATCH THE ENTIRE HUMAN RACE GET WIPED OUT?!

EVEN IN SCI-FI THE RULE OF THE GAME IS NOT TO TAKE PART IN THE WORLD THAT YOU VISIT
But You Toshiro-!!
OH!
DIDN'T HE TELL US TO BRING SOMETHING BACK?
ARE YOU STILL... UPSET?
HMMPH
SKREE SKREE SKREE
THUD THUD
SOMEDAY, AFTER A LONG TIME THIS MIGHT BE THE ROUGH STONE THAT ONE DAY TURNS INTO A GEM.
YEAH TARO...
SIGH
ISN'T IT JUST DIRTY? SOMETHING S STUCK TO IT
RIGHT HERE! DOESN'T SOMETHING ABOUT THIS MAKE YOU REALLY FEEL THIS ERA?
THAT'S ALL. Too FEMININE, Can You trust You Think?
TARO ?!

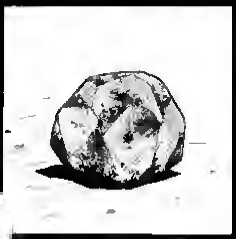
LET'S DO OUR HONEYMOON RIGHT NEXT TIME.
BYE BYE
POOF!
THE TRUMP


KYAACK!
WHERE IS EVERYONE?
WE'RE HERE
OH...

WHOA~!
YAAAY~!
O~W~!
WELCOME PRIME MINISTER TAKESHITA!
THANK YOU FOR HAVING ME.
COUNCILOR NOBORU!
COUN CILOR

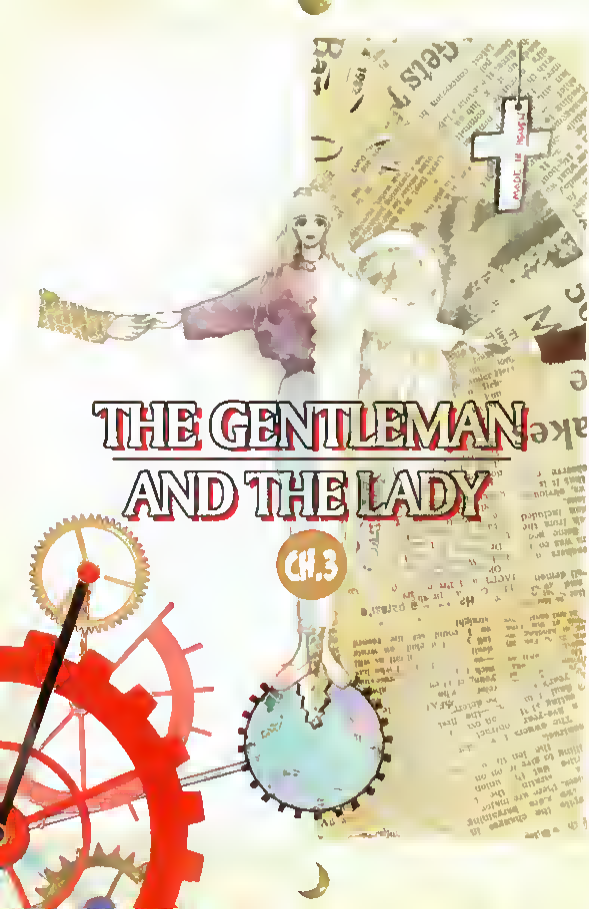
THEY SEEM TO BE SAYING THAT THEY BROUGHT A PIECE OF ROCK
IT LOOKS LIKE TWO YOUNG SIBLINGS
HUHU
WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S GOING ON?
A ROCK? DID YOU JUST SAY 'A ROCK?'
HE CALLED YOU COUNCILOR NOBORU PRIME MINISTER.
PLEASE, MAKE HASTE. THEY RE CLEARLY OUT OF THEIR MINDS!

TELL HIM WE SUCCEEDED IN PERFECTING THE TIME MACHINE.
PLEASE, RELAY THIS MESSAGE TO COUNCILOR NOBORU!
!?
HAVE YOU SEEN ONE TOO MANY SCI-FI FLICKS?
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT HUH?!
WHAP
GET BACK!! HOW WOULD AN ABSURD THING LIKE THAT *EVER* HAPPEN... YOU NUMB-SKULL?!
THEN, WHAT HAPPENED TO THE THIRD WORLD WAR?
THE YEAR NOW IS 1988 ISN'T IT?
UM, YES?



BUT HOW?

ALL WE DID WAS BRING BACK A PIECE OF ROCK.


THE GENTLEMAN
AND THE LADY
CH.3

MERRY
CHRISTMAS !!
SANTA TOUR

HUH?
THIS IS A STORY ABOUT SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED ONE DECEMBER MORNING.
WHAT IS IT, DAD?
WAIT THIS IS
BUT THERE'S A PARTY AT MY FRIEND'S HOUSE ON CHRISTMAS EVE!
A WHOLE BUNCH OF GIRLS ARE GONNA BE THERE.
AFTER ALL... THAT'S THE DAY RIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS SUNDAY!
SO TARO SHOULD WE GO CATCH THAT FILM ON THE 24TH?
THIS IS JUST THE THING BUT
HUH? IT'S ONLY PLAYING FOR 2 DAYS ON THE 24TH AND 25TH?
IS IT AN ANIMATED MOVIE?
THEN HOW ABOUT ON THE 25TH ITSELF?
NO
AFTER I GET MY MONEY!
WHA-?!
MUNCH!
MUNCH!
MUNCH!
CHOMP
OKAY

IS THIS THE END OF OUR HAPPY DAYS AS FATHER AND SON?
YOU'RE A GROWN UP GET IT TOGETHER!
SOB-
WAHAHAH
DON'T CRY!
ARE YOU GONNA GET ME THE NEW PLAYSTATION?
ULTIMATELY SWEET LITTLE TARO DECIDED TO GO ALONG WITH HIS DAD
AND UNCONCERNED WITH WHAT WAS ON HIS SON'S MIND TARO'S FATHER TRUDGED ALONG IN HIGH SPIRITS
ARE YOU GONNA GO THERE? NO MATTER WHAT?
OOOH SNOW!
Merry Christ
IT'S STARTED SNOWING!
WHOA
SANTA TOUR
...THIS?

OH, IS THAT RIGHT? SO I TAKE IT YOU HAVEN'T HEARD OF THIS MOVIE, HAVE YOU?
HUHUHU
WELL, OUH WHY WOULD PEOPLE GO SEE A MOVIE LIKE THIS ON CHRISTMAS?
NO SMOKING
EMP
TY
THERE AREN'T THAT MANY PEOPLE
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT IT PROBABLY ISN'T THAT POPULAR OR FAMOUS
TRUE, BUT... WHAT I *ALSO* KNOW IS THAT WHOEVER SEES THIS FILM WILL LOVE IT!
YOU KNOW IT'S NOT A POPULAR MOVIE!
YES WHEN I WAS ABOUT YOUR AGE.
HAVE YOU SEEN IT, DAD?
SHOULD I SAY IT WAS GOOD. WELL, IT SURELY WAS MAGICAL.
POP
WAS IT GOOD?

THE TRUTH IS...
?
SANTA HIMSELF MADE THIS MOVIE.
WHAT?!
WHIRR—
BUT HOW COME DAD KNOWS ABOUT THIS
.....
SANTA WORLD
WHAT...
WOW THIS IS KINDA MAGICAL, DAD!

DID HE FALL ASLEEP?
ZZZEEEEP
HE'S THE ONE WHO WANTED TO GO SEE IT
ZZZ
ZZZ
WHAT THE...
EH?
HUM DEE DUM... GO TO SLEEP, CHILDREN!
WELL, THERE'S NOT MUCH MORE WE CAN DO ABOUT THAT, KIDDO
SHE FELL ASLEEP, TOO?
MOM, MOM! LOOK AT...
...YEAH.
ONLY KIDS WHO HAVE THE HEART TO BELIEVE IN SANTA CAN STAY AWAKE FOR THIS MOVIE.

!!
NO
DID YOU SAY SOME THING?
HERE-OVER HERE!
YOO-HOO~!
EUAAAA AACK!

WAKE UP, JOHNNY!
SHAKE
SHAKE
HUH ?!
I, I, I DON'T EVEN BELIEVE IN STUPID SANTA CLAUS!
MOM! MOM! MOM! MOM~~!
Sigh
WHAT THE... IT'S A STUPID MOVIE LIKE I THOUGHT
BUT NOWADAYS, EVEN KIDS TEND NOT TO BELIEVE IN SANTA.
.....
Ho Ho Ho
IT'S SO TRAGIC THAT PEOPLE FORGET ABOUT ME WHEN THEY BECOME GROWN-UPS...
THERE-- THERE-- CALM YOURSELVES KIDS
ACK! HEY!! HELP!
ACK!!!
SHHF
WON'T YOU COME OVER TO THIS SIDE AND HELP AN OLD MAN?
ZWOOSH
HEY, KIDS.
Pat

RRRRRRIP
ACK~!!
ROLL
ZZZZ
ZZZZ
ZZZZZ
ZZZZZ
WHERE COULD TARO AND THAT LITTLE GIRL HAVE DISAPPEARED TO?
...JUST TWO OF THEM? THAT'S IT?

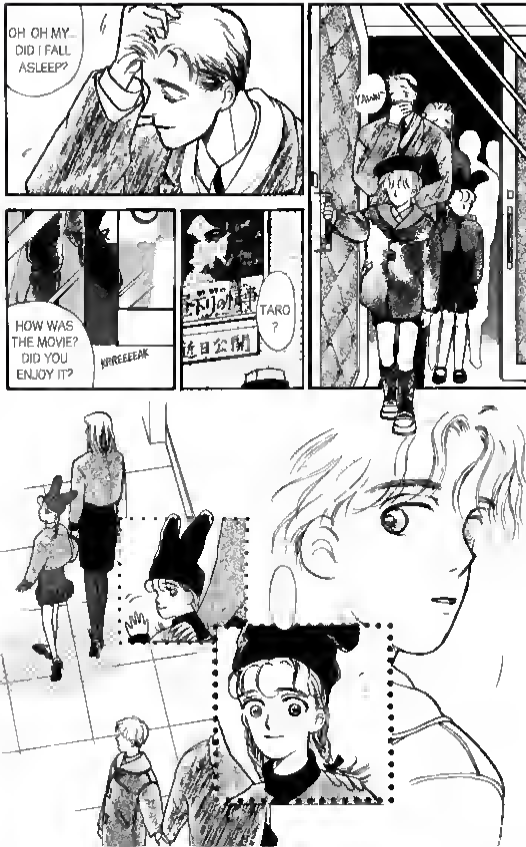
THE SANTA LAND
WELL WHAT CAN YOU DO? I ONLY HAVE ONE KID ZONED TO ME IN MY DISTRICT!
SEVEN FOR ME!
WELL I'VE GOT FOUR!
PEOPLE DO ALL SORTS OF WEIRD STUFF THESE DAYS!
MAYBE THEY'LL SELL US AND SEND US OFF ON A SHIP!
IS THIS A BRAND NEW STYLE OF KIDNAPPING?
W- WHAT IS THIS?
C-MON CHILDREN RIGHT THIS WAY!
WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE TO YOU KIDS?
IF YOU'RE HOLDING US FOR RANSOM, OUR FAMILIES ARE POOR!
I DON'T LIKE SANTA HE CREEPS ME OUT!
UM WHO ARE YOU GUYS?

WELCOME TO
THESE ARE THE KIDS WHO GOT CHOSEN TO GO ON THE SANTA TOUR.
GRANDDAUGHTER SANTA
NEPHEW SANTA
NOT TO MENTION HOW THE TOURIST QUALITY GOES DOWN WITH EVERY SANTA TOUR.
GREAT GRANDFATHER SANTA
THE NUMBERS ARE GOING DOWN EVERY YEAR!
ARE YOU GUYS for REAL?
WEIRDO!
LOSER!
LAME-O!
CREAM PUFF!
THIS IS SANTA WORLD!!!
IF WE DON'T GO NOW CHRISTMAS WILL BE OVER
C'MON KIDS WE'VE GOTTA HURRY
WHAT DO THEY MEAN "SANTA TOUR"?
GRANDSON SANTA

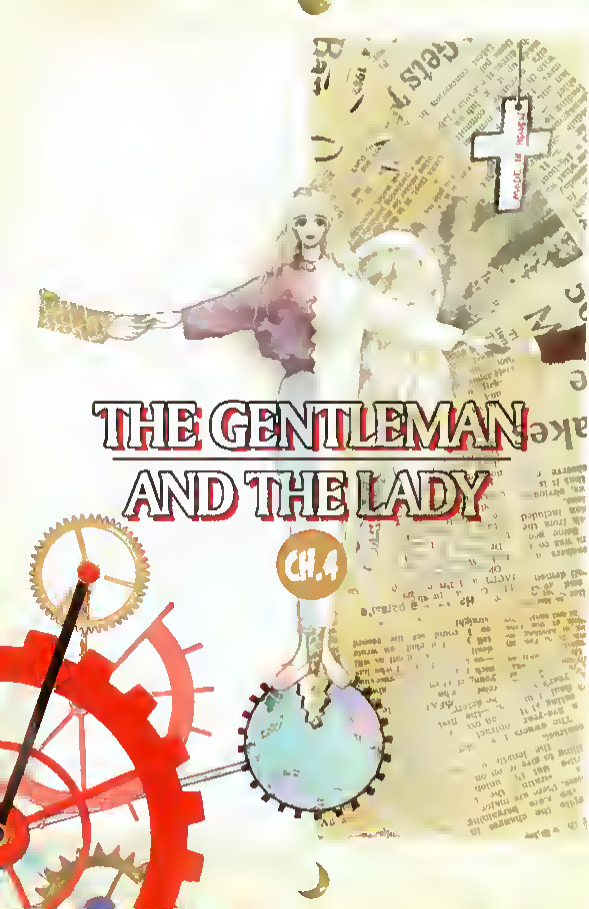
OW!
IF WE DON'T GET HELP FROM YOU KIDS IT'LL BE VERY, VERY
OUR KIDS ARE SCATTERED EVERYWHERE AROUND THE WORLD
DUHH!...
HA HA HA
THEY STILL LOOK LIKE THEY CAN BARELY BELIEVE THEIR
BUT.. BUT MY MOM AND DAD BUY ME GIFTS!
YES BUT THE GIFTS WE GIVE YOU ARE GREATER THAN MATERIAL THINGS.
WHAT D YA THINK COULD BE INSIDE THIS?
SCANNING
TRUST ME.. IT'S A "GOOD THING."
TH THAT'S ONLY TRUE IF IT'S A "GOOD THING" TO THE PERSON WHO'S GETTING IT!

SANTA-WORLD
THE GIFT DO YOU HAVE MINE, TOO?
WHAT ABOUT ME?
GIFTS FOR THE BOTH OF YOU?
..HO HO HO..

O Hanny
A "GOOD THING" FOR TARO...
COULD IT POSSIBLY BE?
KAZZZAM
WHAT...
KAZZZAM
THE END


OH OH MY... DID I FALL ASLEEP?
YAWN
HOW WAS THE MOVIE? DID YOU ENJOY IT?
KIREEEEAK
TARO ?

THIS SCENE TAKES PLACE TEN YEARS IN THE FUTURE
YES!
SANTA TOUR
IS THAT SO..
WHERE THE BOY AND GIRL, WHO HAVE NOT VISITED THE THEATRE IN A LONG TIME... ARE BROUGHT TOGETHER ONCE AGAIN BY THE SANTA TOUR.


THE GENTLEMAN
AND THE LADY
CH.4

SPRING, 1989. PART 1 OF THE TV COMMERCIAL SERIES "ANGEL" SET IN NEW YORK BECAME A BIG HIT IN JAPAN.

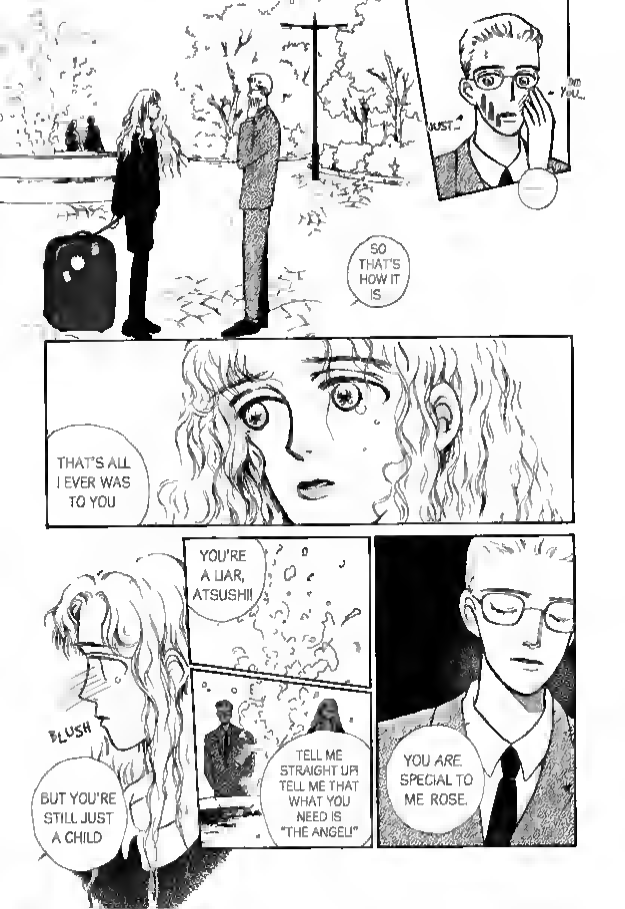
RUMORS SPREAD THAT THIS COMMERCIAL SERIES WAS GOING TO EXPAND INTO A SECOND SERIES IN JAPAN BUT IT WAS NEVER AIRED.

THIS IS A STORY ABOUT THE ANGEL WHO DISAPPEARED AFTER THAT FIRST COMMERCIAL SERIES.

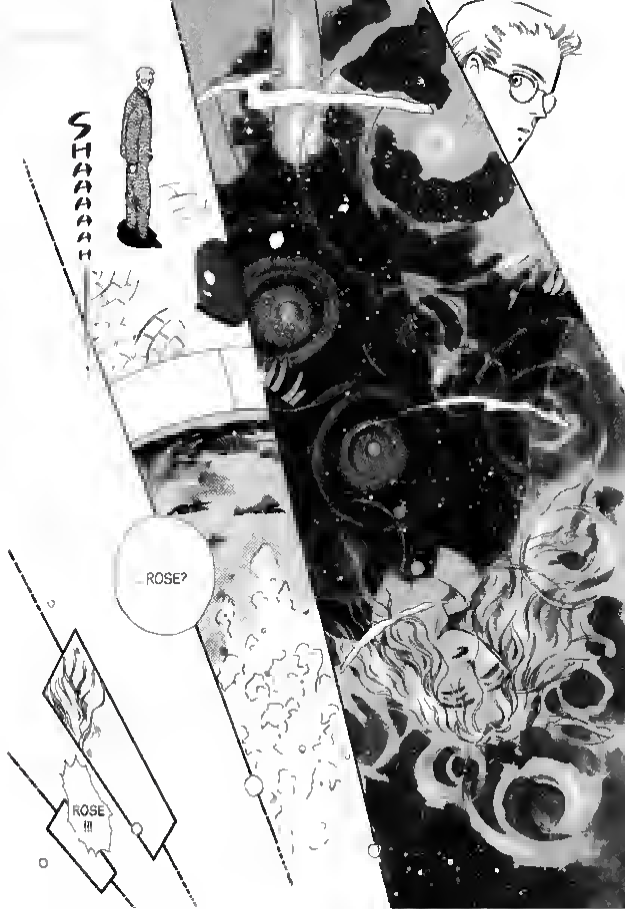
ANGEL TIME

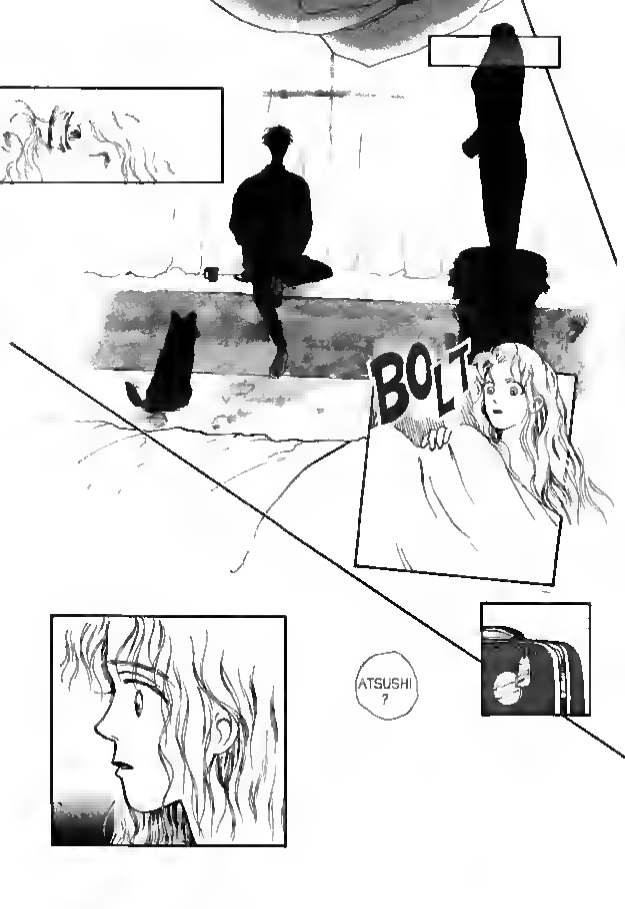
ANGEL ROSE ARRIVED HERE TODAY FOR OUR COMPANY'S PROJECT
I DISCOVERED HER WHEN I WAS WORKING AT THE NEW YORK OFFICE
WELCOME TO JAPAN!
NOD
..MY WIFE AND DAUGHTER ARE BIG FANS
THEY WANTED TO COME WITH ME TO GREET YOU AT THE AIRPORT
GWRFARRR
OKAY. THEN SHOULD WE GET GOING? I'LL LEAD THE WAY
THA-WACK
HUHK!

I EVEN MODELED FOR THE BASTARD!
WAIT--I ROSE--I
TONY
BECAUSE HE SAID HE WANTED ME TO DO IT!
HE SAID HE CARED FOR ME!
I...I DIDN'T KNOW! YOU NEVER TOLD ME!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "LEAVE YOU ALONE," ROSE?!
THMP
THMP
DIMEN-SIONS?!
SHE. I MEAN YOU TWO ARE PRACTICALLY EACH IN DIFFERENT DIMENSIONS!
SLAM
LEAVE ME ALONE, ATSUSHI!
I SAID WAIT!!
THMP
THMP


JUST...
AND YOU...
SO THAT'S HOW IT IS
THAT'S ALL I EVER WAS TO YOU
YOU'RE A LIAR, ATSUSHI!
TELL ME STRAIGHT UP! TELL ME THAT WHAT YOU NEED IS "THE ANGEL!"
YOU ARE SPECIAL TO ME ROSE.
FLUSH
BUT YOU'RE STILL JUST A CHILD

SO ADULTS CAN LOVE TWO PEOPLE AT THE SAME TIME
THEN I
DON'T WANNA BE A STUPID ADULT!
SHAAAAAH
SHAAAAAH
SOMETHING MAKES ME FEEL
YOU MUST BE TIRED
WE START SHOOTING TOMORROW SO YOU SHOULD RES--
LIKE I'VE JUST AWOKEN FROM A DREAM
KER-SPLASH!

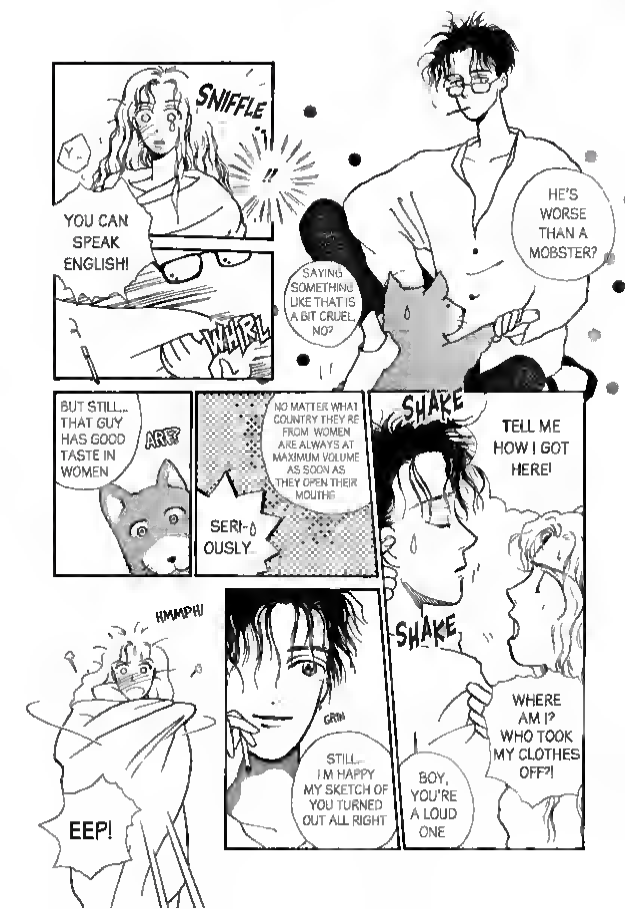

SHAAAAAH
..ROSE?
ROSE !!!


BOLT
ATSUSHI
?

EYAAAAGH~!
WH... WHO ARE YOU?
KYAAAAAA~!!
PEEK
WHERE AM I?
WHY AM I HE...

ROSES'S CLOTHES
DRIP
DRIP
HOW..
HOW.. HOW.. HOW HOW DID THOSE GET UP THERE?
UM...
AH
MAYBE HE DOESN'T SPEAK ENGLISH?

SO HE'S JAPANESE...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "YOU'RE SPECIAL TO ME?"
HE'S NOT A VICIOUS GUY
HE'S NOT SUCH A BASTARD
YOU JUST...
I WAS JUST TRICKED
OH NON-SENSE
NEED ME FOR YOUR WORK. THAT'S ALL.
BOP


SNIFFLE
YOU CAN SPEAK ENGLISH!
WHIP
HE'S WORSE THAN A MOBSTER?
SAYING SOMETHING LIKE THAT IS A BIT CRUEL, NO?
BUT STILL... THAT GUY HAS GOOD TASTE IN WOMEN
ARF
NO MATTER WHAT COUNTRY THEY'RE FROM, WOMEN ARE ALWAYS AT MAXIMUM VOLUME AS SOON AS THEY OPEN THEIR MOUTHS
SERI-OUSLY
SHAKE
TELL ME HOW I GOT HERE!
SHAKE
WHERE AM I? WHO TOOK MY CLOTHES OFF?!
BOY, YOU'RE A LOUD ONE
GRIN
STILL... I'M HAPPY MY SKETCH OF YOU TURNED OUT ALL RIGHT
HMMPH!
EEP!

YOU GET IT?
AND, I PICKED IT UP
YOU THREW YOUR LIFE AWAY INTO THAT FOUNTAIN
SO WHATEVER I DO WITH IT DEPENDS ON WHAT I WANT
RIGHT?
TH, THEN, WHAT ABOUT WHAT I WANT?
WHOOSH
HA HA HA HA
WHAT KIND OF NUTCASE IS THIS.....?!!
GET DRESSED. WE'RE GOING OUT
IT WENT DOWN THE DRAIN POPPED WITH THE BUBBLES IN THAT FOUNTAIN.
WHAT IS HE.

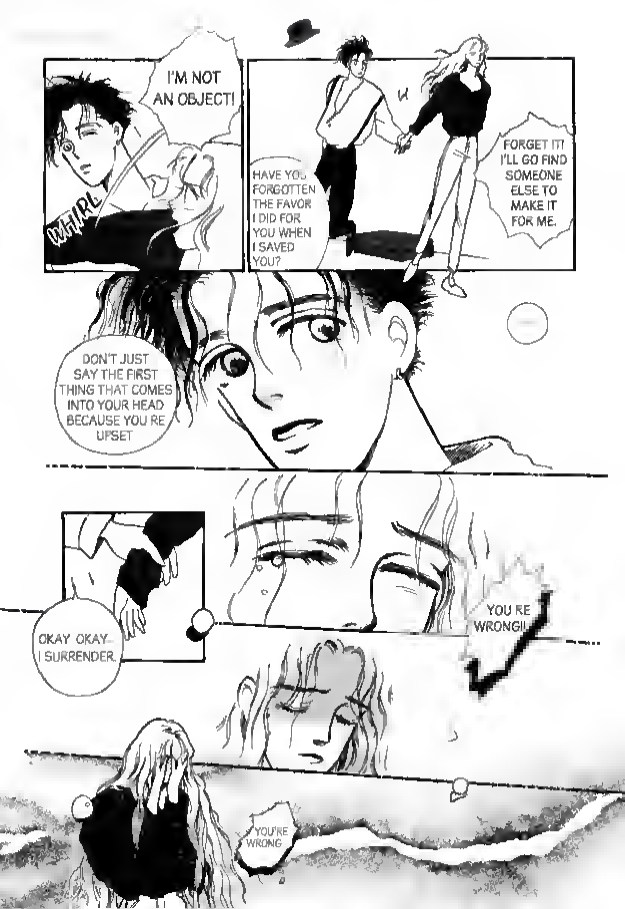
WHAT AM I DOING
C'Mon
Please
RING
RING
RING
RING
IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
RING
HEY
WHIRL
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
THAT'S IT! SUPER DUPER JOB!
DON'T MISS OUT! WE'VE GOT SOME GREAT DEALS!!

ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE IF YOU'RE READY TO DIE FOR IT
BLUSH
IT REALLY IS...!
YOU'RE PRETTY SHARP HUH?
IS THIS.. WHAT YOU DO FOR A LIVING?
BY ANY CHANCE IS...
THAT'S HOW IT IS.
THEN THAT MAKES THE TWO OF US UNHAPPY
HAFF
I KNOW
YOU REGRET THAT I TOOK YOU IN DON'T YOU?
GWRAARR
OF COURSE I DO!
Tony
IT'S NOT GARBAGE STUCK INSIDE THERE THOSE ARE ELECTRICAL PARTS I USE THEM AS PART OF MY THEME
HRN?
THERE'S GARBAGE STUCK INSIDE THIS THING

IT'S TRUE THAT THE FOUNTAIN WAS HUGE BUT ... I NEVER IMAGINED ANYONE WOULD ACTUALLY THROW HERSELF INTO IT Y'KNOW?
WHAT ?!
I SAW IT UP CLOSE LIKE THIS I HELD IT LIKE THIS!
WH
WHERE S ATSUSHI?
HE RAN AWAY

UM
MAKE ME A BOMB
A BOMB MADE OUT OF TONY PARTS
WELL... NO I DON'T THINK SO I HAVEN'T REALLY GOTTEN TO SEE ANY FIREWORKS THIS YEAR
SO?
YOU KNOW THAT GUY, ATSUSHI? HE'S THE SON OF THE C.E.O. WHO OWNS TONY
LET'S GIVE HIM A GIFT

I'M NOT INTERESTED IN HEARING ABOUT YOUR STUPID MEN
I THINK A PINE BOMB WOULD SUIT HIS TASTES BETTER
THAN A KNIFE OR ARSENIC
I THINK IF I EVER MET A GUY LIKE THAT... I'D BEAT THE HELL OUT OF HIM
AND HIM IN PARTICULAR HE'S THE TYPE I HATE MOST
EH
STOP SAYING SUCH MORONIC THINGS!
YOU WANTED TO BE THE WIFE OF THE HEIR TO TONY ENTERPRISES THAT BADLY?
I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS!
THEN MAKE A BOMB FOR ME!
WE WOULD GET CAUGHT!!


I'M NOT AN OBJECT!
WHAT!
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THE FAVOR I DID FOR YOU WHEN I SAVED YOU?
FORGET IT! I'LL GO FIND SOMEONE ELSE TO MAKE IT FOR ME.
DON'T JUST SAY THE FIRST THING THAT COMES INTO YOUR HEAD BECAUSE YOU RE UPSET
OKAY OKAY.. I SURRENDER
YOU RE WRONG!!
YOU'RE WRONG

MAYBE... YOU REALLY DID CARE FOR HIM?
WHIRL

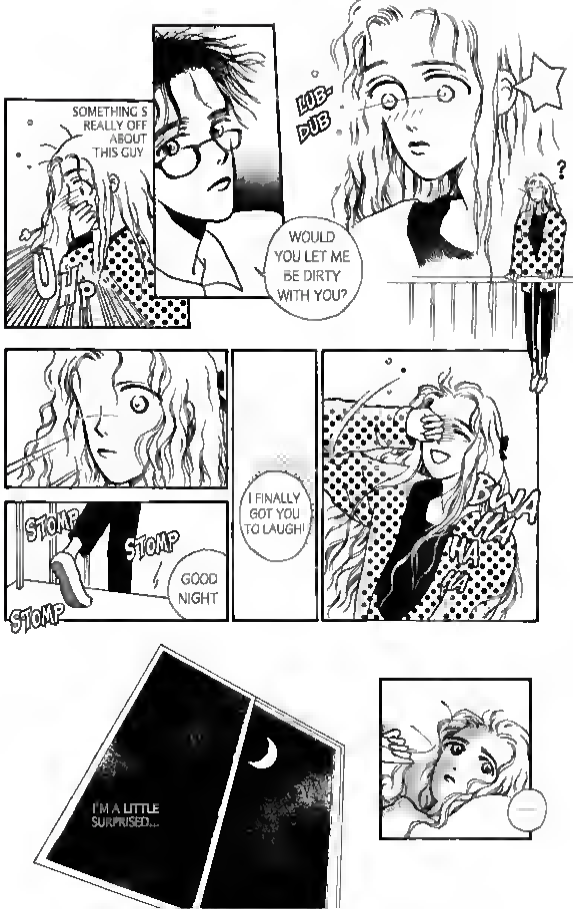
...H.
.....
YOU'RE GOOD AT USING CHOP-STICKS!
HUH?
HUH?
SPOON AND FORK...
HRMM...
MUNCH, MUNCH
AH...
I USED TO GO TO JAPANESE RESTAURANTS IN NEW YORK ALL THE TIME.

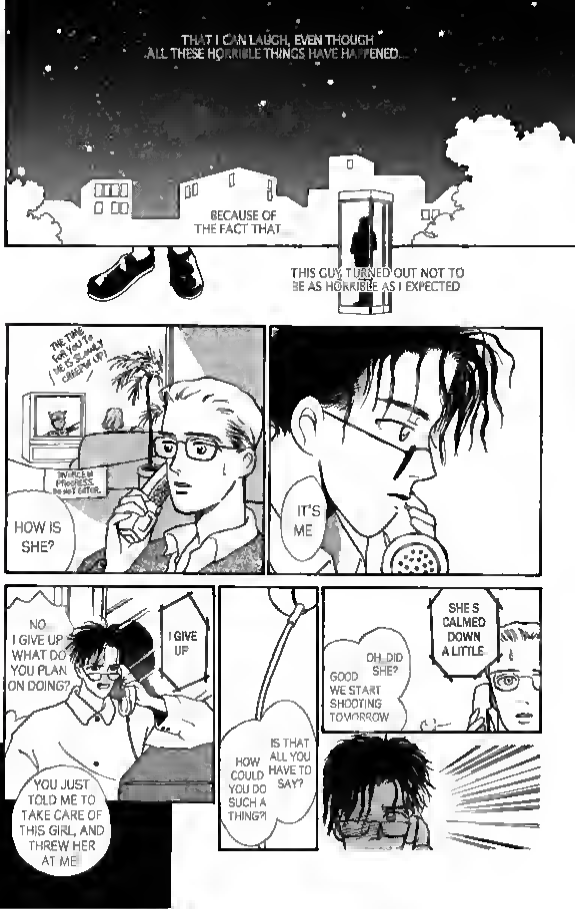
MY PARENTS WERE ALWAYS BEING TRANSFERRED SO WE LIVED IN LOTS OF CITIES
LONDON PARIS IN MANY OF THE STATES
WHEN I WAS LITTLE YES BUT I DON'T REMEMBER VERY MUCH
HAVE YOU BEEN TO NEW YORK?
THOSE ARE FOR ME??
WOOF
ANYWAY HAVING LIVED ALL OVER REALLY GIVES ME AN EDGE WHEN DEALING WITH SO MANY TYPES OF PEOPLE AT THE STAND
I MEANT TO ASK YOU THIS BEFORE
ARE ALL THOSE YOUR WORKS?
I'D LIKE TO VISIT THAT CITY AGAIN
IT'S THE MOST HAPPENING PLACE FOR MODERN ART
NEW YORK..

"WHAT IS THIS?"
STING
"WHAT ARE THESE THINGS EVER GOING TO BE?" ASK ME THOSE KINDS OF QUESTIONS
"WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO WITH THESE THINGS?"
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "HOW COME?"
HOW COME?
I THINK THE ABILITY TO CREATE THINGS... IS REALLY AMAZING
BECAUSE EVERYONE ASKS ME THOSE QUESTIONS MY FATHER GAVE UP ON ME
MY BROTHER TREATS ME LIKE I'M STUPID
AND MY MOTHER CRIES OVER ME.
WHEN I WAS SHOOTING THE COMMERCIAL
ALL OF US WERE CREATING SOMETHING NEW

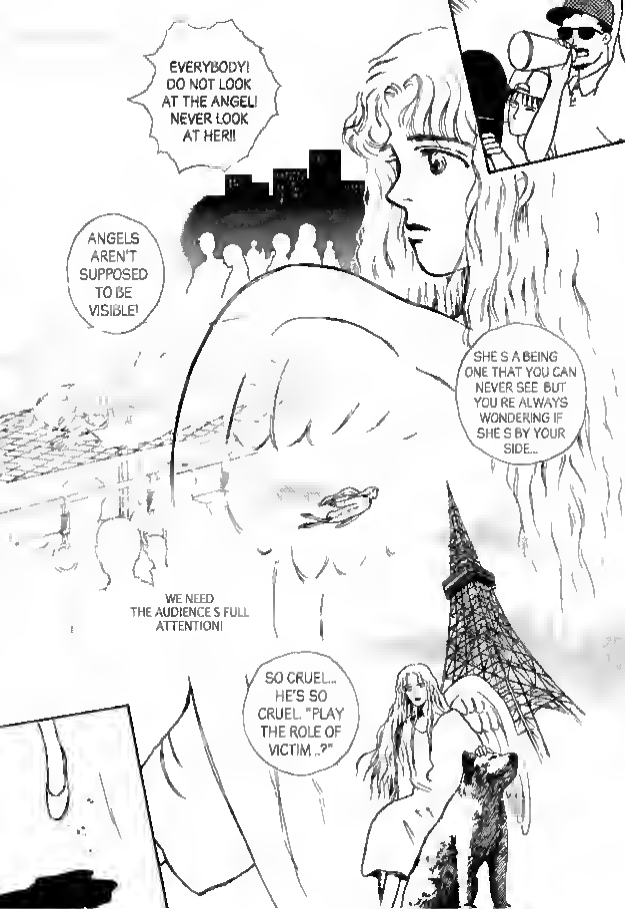
OH.. IS IT THE ANGEL.
YOU KNOW ABOUT IT?
I JUST SAW THE OMMERCIAL TODAY
THE COMMERCIAL WAS SUPPOSED TO BE ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE,
BUT ATSUSHI SAID GOING WITH AN ANGEL THEME WAS BEST
AND HE SAID THAT I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD BE THAT ANGEL.
I THOUGHT THAT ATSUSHI LOVED ME, TOO
IT MADE ME HAPPY BECAUSE WHENEVER I WOULD BECOME THE ANGEL WE'D BE IN THE SAME MIND SET— AND WE WERE REALLY ABLE TO OPEN UP TO EACH OTHER
—EVEN THOUGH THAT WASN'T THE CASE

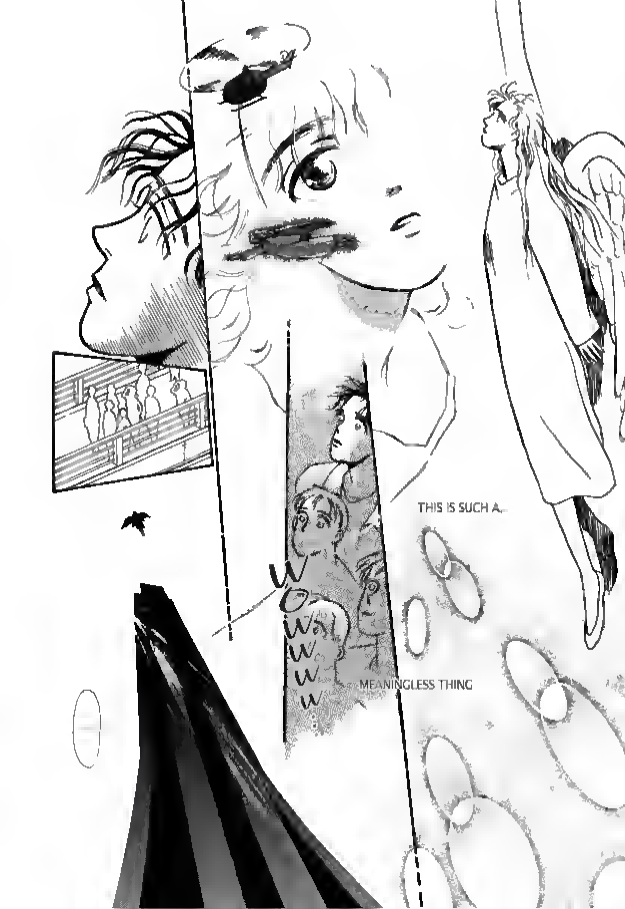
THE BATH ROOM'S DOWN STAIRS
I THINK I SHOULD LET HER KNOW ABOUT IT...
PU HA HA
WOW SHE'S GOTTEN THIS DRUNK OVER HIM?
HEY HEY!
EYA HA HA HA HA
HEY HEY... IT'S ALL RIGHT
I'M CURIOUS...
Y HAD SOME DIRTY MOTIVES HUH?
HOW COME YOU SAVED ME?
Hic
WELL IF I SAID YES


SOMETHING'S REALLY OFF ABOUT THIS GUY
UH...
HUH?
LUB-DUB
?
WOULD YOU LET ME BE DIRTY WITH YOU?
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
GOOD NIGHT
I FINALLY GOT YOU TO LAUGH!
BWA HA HA HA
I'M A LITTLE SURPRISED...
—


THAT I CAN LAUGH, EVEN THOUGH ALL THESE HORRIBLE THINGS HAVE HAPPENED...
BECAUSE OF THE FACT THAT
THIS GUY TURNED OUT NOT TO BE AS HORRIBLE AS I EXPECTED
THE TIME FOR YOU TO HEAR ME IS SLOWLY CREEPING UP!
SWITCH TO PHOTOPRESS. DO NOT EDITOR.
HOW IS SHE?
IT'S ME
NO... I GIVE UP. WHAT DO YOU PLAN ON DOING?
I GIVE UP.
YOU JUST TOLD ME TO TAKE CARE OF THIS GIRL, AND THREW HER AT ME!
HOW COULD YOU DO SUCH A THING?!
IS THAT ALL YOU HAVE TO SAY?
SHE'S CALMED DOWN A LITTLE
OH...DID SHE?
GOOD. WE START SHOOTING TOMORROW

WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?
TO THE LOCATION
THE LOCATION?
YOU TOLD ME WHEN YOU GOT DRUNK LAST NIGHT
DON'T YOU REMEMBER ?
THEY'RE SHOOTING "THE ANGEL" TODAY
YOU WANT TO GO BACK
YOU WANT TO HIDE OUT AND PLAY THE ROLE OF VICTIM FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE?
WHAT ?!
HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT??


EVERYBODY! DO NOT LOOK AT THE ANGEL! NEVER LOOK AT HER!!
ANGELS AREN'T SUPPOSED TO BE VISIBLE!
SHE'S A BEING ONE THAT YOU CAN NEVER SEE BUT YOU'RE ALWAYS WONDERING IF SHE'S BY YOUR SIDE...
WE NEED THE AUDIENCE'S FULL ATTENTION!
SO CRUEL... HE'S SO CRUEL. "PLAY THE ROLE OF VICTIM..?"

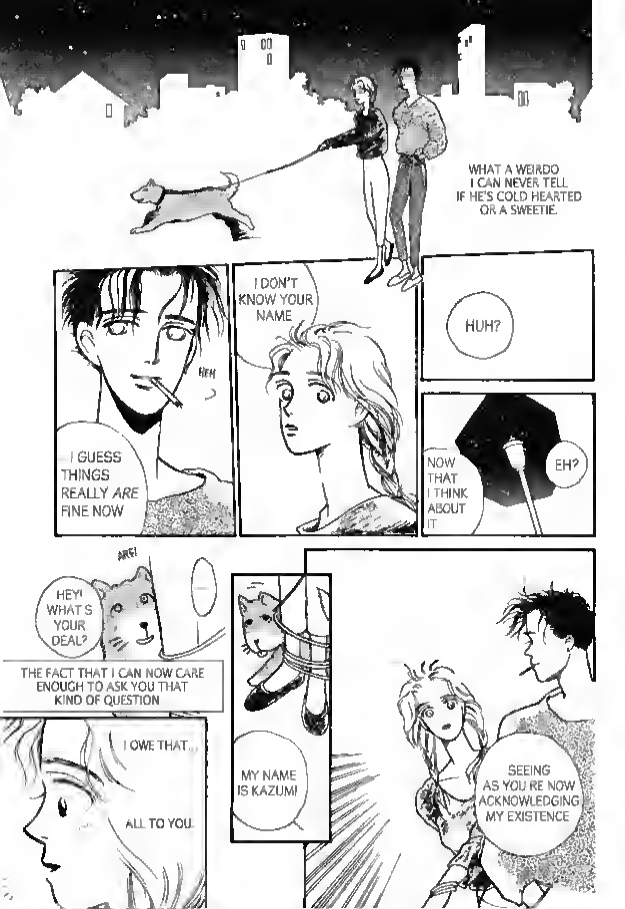

THIS IS SUCH A...
WWWWWW
MEANINGLESS THING

WITH MY OWN TWO HANDS
I DIS COVERED HER.
WHAT DO YOU THINK? BEAUTIFUL ISN T SHE?
AT SUSHI
PERHAPS YOU WON T UNDERSTAND
ISN'T THAT OBVIOUS?
SHE S NOT AN ANGEL SHE'S A HUMAN BEING
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF HER?

THIS IS GONNA BE A HUGE HIT I'M SURE OF IT!
YOU BET! IT SO IS!!
GOOD JOB EVERY BODY!
ROSE!
AH
IT'S STRANGE

IF YOU REALLY HATE IT QUIT I'LL SUPPORT YOU
WHAT?! YOU STARTED IN ON ME THIS MORNING AND NOW..
SEE I WENT YOU SATISFIED NOW?
MY HEART DOESN'T RACE ANYMORE. AT ALL.
WHATEVER. WE BOTH KNOW WHAT YOU SAID
YES?
WHAT ARE YOU GAZING AT?
OH NOTH ING
DIREC-TOR?
You Do IT LIKE THIS, AND...
HMM

HOW DID YOU LEARN HOW TO MAKE MISO SOUP?
TINKLE
IT'S YUM-MY!
AND I'M A CHRISTIAN, TOO!
V2
HUHU...
NOT SURE HOW
BUT I THINK THAT NOW THINGS ARE OKAY
STIR
STIR
Y KNOW, TODAY... I BUMPED INTO ATSUSHI
OH SORRY
KOBAN ?
THAT'S THIS LI GUY RIGHT HERE!
GRRF!
AH!
DROOL
OH, KOBAN'S DINNER!
GRAAAR


WHAT A WEIRDO
I CAN NEVER TELL
IF HE'S COLD HEARTED
OR A SWEETIE.
I DON'T KNOW YOUR NAME
HUH?
HEH
I GUESS THINGS REALLY ARE FINE NOW
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT
EH?
ARG!
HEY! WHAT'S YOUR DEAL?
THE FACT THAT I CAN NOW CARE ENOUGH TO ASK YOU THAT KIND OF QUESTION
I OWE THAT...
ALL TO YOU.
MY NAME IS KAZUMI
SEEING AS YOU'RE NOW ACKNOWLEDGING MY EXISTENCE

NOW THAT I'M FINALLY LUCKY ENOUGH TO HAVE A CAT GAL AROUND...
I CAN'T JUST DO NOTHING BUT FEED HER!
W... WHAT?
KYAACK ~!
THUD
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING?
DON'T MOVE!
HMM.. WOULD THIS SIDE BE BETTER?
ROSE! COME OVER HERE FOR A MINUTE!
HUH?
WHAAAT ~?!
I DON'T NEED A NUDE DRAWING OF YOU
I ALREADY GOT THAT OUT OF THE WAY WHEN YOU FIRST ARRIVED
OH... NOT MUCH.
W WHAT?
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS? A MODEL FO... A CONTEST?
HEH HEH HEH! WHAT DID YOU THINK I WAS TRYING TO DO?

ROSE, TURN YOUR EYES THIS WAY
THAT'S RIGHT!
SMILE-- JUST LIKE THAT!
OH, OH..
HER FACIAL EXPRESSIONS GET BETTER WITH EACH TAKE
SOMETHING'S DIFFERENT ABOUT ROSE
BUT DAMMIT! HE LUCKED OUT!
ROSE SAYS HE'S AN ARTIST
OR IS IT BECAUSE OF THAT RUMOR ABOUT A STREET VENDOR.
WHO'S ALWAYS CLOSES UP HIS SHOP AROUND THE TIME SHE FINISHES AND WAITS FOR HER?
DOES THAT MEAN ROSE WAS JUST AN ORDINARY GIRL, TOO?

THAT'S A WRAP! BE PROUD PEOPLE!
YES YES, VTR IS FINE!
EVERYONE DID A GREAT JOB TODAY!
ROSE.
HU.
HERE COMES "THE ARTIST"
ATSUSHI!!

EVEN THOUGH THIS PART OF THE STORYBOARD HAS ALREADY BEEN PLANNED OUT
WHAT DO YOU THINK ROSE?
YOU KNOW THE COMMERCIAL? I'M THINKING OF CHANGING HOW IT ENDS.
BLANCK
DO YOU HAVE BUSINESS WITH ME?
HEY— ROSE AND I HAVE ALWAYS PRIVATELY DISCUSSED OUR WORK.
SO, CAN YOU EXCUSE US?
WELL PLEASE GO CONSULT THE DIRECTOR ABOUT IT
ARE YOU UPSET, ROSE?
NO.
I CARE FOR YOU
STOP IT! PLEASE!
CRINGE

WE??
WE'RE GOING TO HEAD HOME NOW.
IS THAT ALL THE "BUSINESS" YOU HAD TO TAKE CARE OF?
RIGHT NOW I REALLY AM RUNNING AWAY— FROM ATSUSHI
WELL, I SUPPOSE YOU'RE PUTTING ON A GOOD SHOW... FOR AN AMATEUR
VROOSH
WHY AM I BLUSHING?
CARE FOR??
I CARE FOR THIS MAN
THAT'S RIGHT WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER, EVER SINCE THAT DAY

I CARE FOR THIS GIRL, TOO
GRIP
GRIP
GRIP
GRIP
THIS IS JUST A LIE.
ALL THIS IS IS A PERFORMANCE.
FOR BACKING ME UP
THANKS

WHEN I SAW YOU FOR THE FIRST TIME, COMPLETELY DRENCHED THIS PROJECT JUST CAME TO ME
THAT'S ALIKI
ME?
THAT'S
IT LOOKS LIKE A MAGICAL SPELL
WHOA
WOW
I'M GOING TO SUBMIT THIS TO THE CONTEST
TELL ME THE RESULTS WHEN YOU FIND OUT
OKAY?
I HAD NO IDEA HOW I WAS GOING TO PULL IT OFF WITH YOU BY MY SIDE ALL THE TIME

TOMORROW... WE FINISH SHOOTING, Y'KNOW?
NO MORE IMITATION ANGEL.
IT'S ALREADY BEEN A WEEK.
I HAVE YOU TO THANK FOR EVERYTHING, KAZUMI.
I PUSHED EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED WITH ATSUSHI OUT OF MY MIND.
TO ME, THE REAL ANGEL WAS...
YOU!

HA HA HA
C'MON COME IN COME IN!
DING-DONG
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
HEY, ROSE. HEARD YOU LEFT FOR HOME BEFORE US. HERE, CHANGE INTO YOUR GETUP C'MON!
PEACE!
HERE COMES YOUR DIRECTOR!
OUR SPONSOR MADE A STRONG LEGAL CLAIM ON THE PROPERTY REGARDING THE END OF THE COMMERCIAL.
EH?!
UM WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
WHAT ARE YOU PEOPLE DOING HERE?!

AH
WELL PLEASE GO CONSULT THE DIRECTOR ABOUT IT
YOU KNOW THE COMMERCIAL I'M THINKING OF CHANGING HOW IT ENDS...
BUT THERE'S ONE PERSON CAN SEE HER AND HE'S AN ARTIST WHAT DO YOU THINK?
ANGELS AREN'T SUPPOSED TO BE VISIBLE!
GOOD MORNING
THE WEATHER'S PERFECT FOR CRANKIN' OUT THE REST OF THE COMMERCIAL
ATSUSHI!
NO WAY
HELLO!
I DRAGGED YOU OUT OF THAT FOUNTAIN
AND BROUGHT YOU TO MY KID BROTHER'S PLACE.
!?
I BROUGHT YOU HERE.
WHAT?! STOP IT, NOW!!
...HOW DID YOU FIND OUT ABOUT THIS PLACE?
IF WE GO WITH THOSE LINES YOUR LOVER WILL BE LUCKY AS WE'RE GONNA SHOWCASE HIM AS THE ARTIST THAT HE IS

KID BROTHER?
AHA HA HA
AH...
SETUP IS DONE!
KER-PLOP
KAZUMI! THIS WILL MAKE YOU AND YOUR WORK TREMENDOUSLY POPULAR!
THIS IS AMAZING! WHAT AN EXQUISITE WORK OF ART
AH...
WHOA!

GREAT JOB EVERYONE.
KREEK
KREEK
PLOP
IT WAS JUST FOR A WHILE
HE SAID HE WOULDN'T SAY ANYTHING. MY BROTHER!
BECAUSE HE WAS WORRIED I MIGHT KILL MYSELF
YOU SPIED ON ME AND WATCHED ME. YOU WERE JUST WORRIED I WOULDN'T END UP FILMING THE WHOLE COMMERCIAL
HOW IS IT DIFFERENT?

DO YOU HAVE ANY PROOF??
GIVE ME THIS SCULPTURE.
SLAP
EUAAAAAAAGH
SURE... IF THAT MAKES...
YOU FEEL BETTER, ROSE.
AND THEN Y'KNOW WHAT?
I'M CHUCKING THE DAMN THING IN THE TRASH!
I'M TAKING IT BACK TO NEW YORK WITH ME...

EDITING ROOM
HEY, IT'S YOU
I'M EDITING WHAT WE SHOT.
THANKS FOR THIS MORNING
HELLO ?
AHA HA HA
oh well...
HEY, I HEARD YOU WERE THE SON OF THE C.E.O. OF THE SPONSOR COMPANY.
ACTUALLY, MY BROTHER SENT ME TO CHECK OUT THE SHOOT TODAY, TOO.
HEH. I WAS WORRIED ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT I LOOKED OKAY IN FRONT OF THE CAMERA.

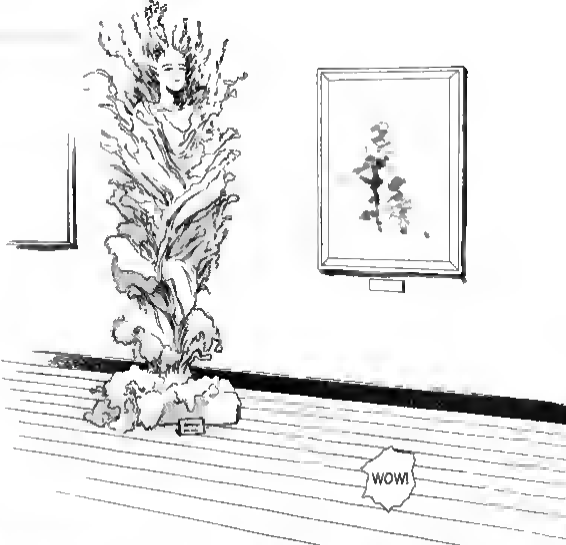
THMP
I SHIPPED OUT YOUR SCULPTURE
RATTLE
RATTLE
WH...WHAT IS ALL THAT STUFF?
VIDEO-TAPES!
YOU ASKED FOR PROOF
PROOF THAT I WASN'T IN ON THE SCHEME WITH THAT PRICK
...WHY DID YOU COME... YOU FRAUD?

WH.. WH.. WHO'S THE BASTARD WHO DID THIS?!
.. HAAH .. EVERYTHING INCLUDING THE MASTER COPY!
DUHH
ARE YOU TELLING ME THAT THE COMMERCIAL'S BEEN STOLEN?!
WH.. WHAT DID YOU SAY??
CHATTER
CHATTER
YOU'RE ALWAYS LYING
WHAT I SAID TO "THIS GIRL" THAT TIME
THAT WASN'T A LIE
MAYBE..
THE GUY LOVED YOU IN HIS OWN WAY ROSE

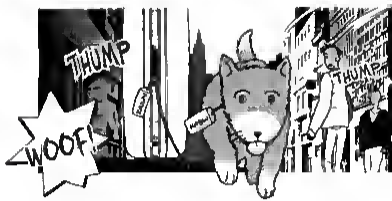
I CARE FOR THIS GIRL TOO
THUD
BUT THAT'S THE TRUTH!
IT'S TRUE, I'VE BEEN A LIAR,
I REALLY DO
ZWOOOOOOOOSH
I CARE FOR YOU, ROSE!

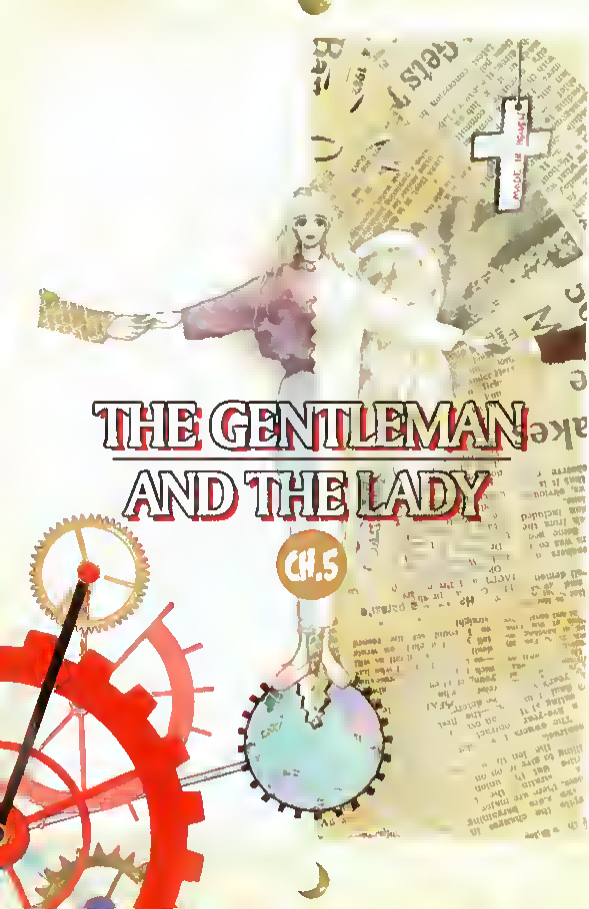
JAPAN
MONTHS LATER...
IS THIS A CHECK?
RRRRIP
RRRRIP
TAFT GALLERY NEW YORK...
THUS, WE REQUEST YOUR PRESENCE IN NEW YORK. WE SINCERELY HOPE YOU CAN VISIT
TAFT GALLERY
AND DISCUSS YOUR FUTURE PROJECTS WITH US.
KREEEAK
SOME TIME AGO, OUR GALLERY PURCHASED ONE OF YOUR ARTWORKS.

HE'S TALL!
SHAKE SHAKE
WELCOME! I'VE HEARD SUCH GREAT THINGS ABOUT YOU FROM MY SECRETARY
PLEASE!
OH?! I DON'T BELIEVE I'VE EVER SPOKEN TO HER, AND NOT ABOUT THIS VISIT
RO
WHAT DO YOU THINK? THIS ARTIST HAS A BRIGHT FUTURE!
WELCOME!


WOW!

ROSE!
KAZUMI I'VE BEEN A LIAR TOO
PERHAPS HE WILL BUILD HIS OWN STUDIO IN NEW YORK, DURING THIS VISIT...


THUMP
WOOF!
THUMP


THE GENTLEMAN
AND THE LADY
CH.5

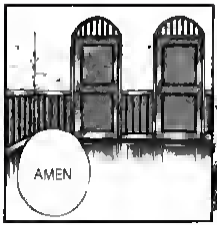
♦♦♦ KAZUMI · TOHNO PRESENTS ♦♦♦

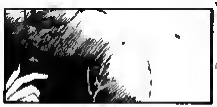
[eks]

X

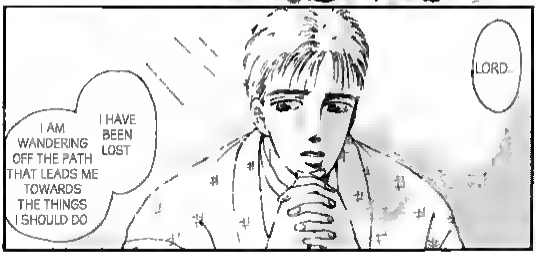
HALT
UM...
HUH?
NAH THIS IS NOTHING GOOD AROUND HERE WILL DO
UH, UM

WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO LET ME MEET YOUR FATHER?
PLEASE GIVE ME A LITTLE MORE TIME.
I'LL INTRODUCE YOU AT JUST THE RIGHT MOMENT SOON AND
SHOULD I WALK YOU CLOSER TO YOUR HOUSE?
NO...IT'S OKAY BUT YOU PROMISED RIGHT?
YOU MEAN, "PANDORA'S BOX?"
YEAAAH!
"PANDO RA'S "


AMEN

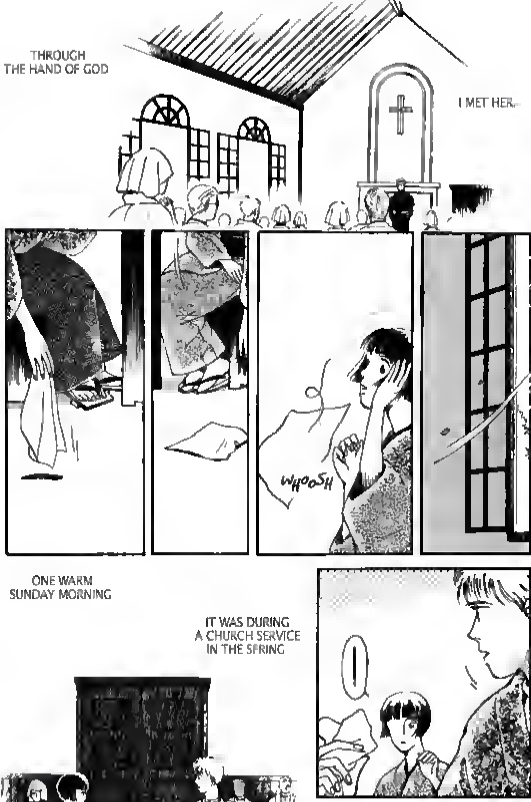


IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER THE SON AND THE HOLY GHOST


I HAVE BEEN LOST
I AM WANDERING OFF THE PATH THAT LEADS ME TOWARDS THE THINGS I SHOULD DO
LORD...

SPEAK TO ME, MY CHILD HE WILL MOST ASSUREDLY GUIDE YOU IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION
OUR FATHER IS ALWAYS PROTECTING US, LOVINGLY

FRACK
I DID NOT KNOW THE TRUE PERSON THAT SHE WAS
SHE IS.
SHE IS REALLY
BY HAVE BEEN, YOU MEAN..?
SHE IS..
WHO I M REFERRING BY "SHE " IS THE WOMAN I HAVE BEEN THINKING OF AS MY LOVER.
AH.. I'M SORRY I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN
THAT'S ALL RIGHT
COME NOW CALM YOURSELF SLOW DOWN AND TELL ME THE STORY FROM THE BEGINNING


THROUGH
THE HAND OF GOD
I MET HER.
WHOOSH
ONE WARM
SUNDAY MORNING
IT WAS DURING
A CHURCH SERVICE
IN THE SPRING

GOOD DAY
AH.. GOOD DAY TO YOU TOO SIR
...
TIME FELT LIKE IT WAS AT A STANDSTILL.
EVEN THOUGH I KNEW VERY WELL THAT THERE WERE TWENTY AND FOUR HOURS IN A DAY... AND SEVEN DAYS IN A WEEK,
SHOULD I SAY THAT MOMENT WAS WHAT STARTED IT ALL?

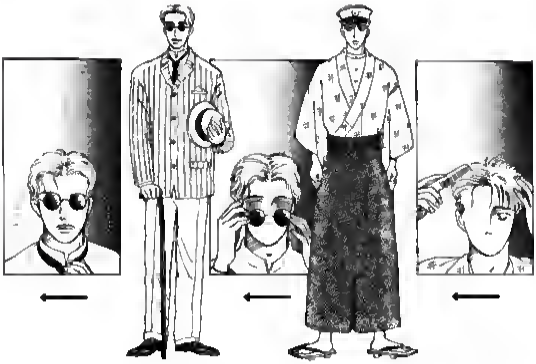
AFTER REPEATING SOME GOOD DAYS AND GOOD MORNINGS...
AND
UH, UM...
YOU HAVE A GOOD MORNING TOO, SIR.
GOOD MORNING
ACK!
WAS THAT TOO FORWARD OF ME?
I CONFESSED MY FEELINGS TO HER AND SHE
NO!

I'M GLAD
HAPPIER FROM THAT DAY ON...
I ACCEPTED THOSE FACTS AS COINCIDENCES
I'M SORRY MY FATHER'S A LITTLE OFF
AND THE FACT THAT I COULD ONLY WALK HER HALFWAY BACK TO HER HOUSE...
THE FACT THAT I COULD ONLY MEET WITH HER UNTIL THE SUN SET ON SUNDAYS AFTER SERVICES

IT WAS ALL A LIE
BUT ALL OF THAT
HER WHOLE STORY ABOUT HER FATHER WAS A LIE! HER SO-CALLED FEELINGS WERE ALL LIES TOO!
SHE WAS A BARMAID AT SOME CAFE.
SHE WAS. NO, THAT WOMAN WAS.
BUT I SAW IT WITH MY OWN EYES.
HAVE YOU ASKED HER DIRECTLY?
NO
I'M SURE SHE WAS MOCKING ME AND LOVING EVERY MINUTE OF IT!
W... WAIT JUST A MOMENT
THERE MAY BE A NUMBER OF CIRCUMSTANCES THAT PUT HER IN SUCH A SITUATION
YOU SHOULD NOT COME TO ANY CONCLUSIONS BEFORE YOU FIND OUT FOR YOURSELF

*THE SIGNS READ CAFE CHAMPS ELYSEES

YES THAT SHOULD BE HOW A MAN NATURALLY GOES ABOUT THINGS



(X)

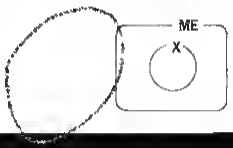
(ME)

AFTER MULLING IT OVER FOR A WHILE I DECIDED TO TRANSFORM MYSELF INTO ANOTHER MAN NAMED "X."

QUESTION 1: STATE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN X AND MYSELF

ANSWER $ME \geqq X$

X IS THE UNION OF BOTH OBJECTS MEANING X AND MYSELF. X, THEREFORE, IS ME AND LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO WHO I AM

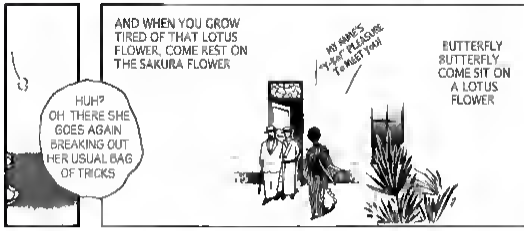


UNION
BEER
KIKEEAK
WELCOME! COME ON IN
WELCOME! MY NAME IS "Y. KO." IT'S JUST LOVELY TO MEET YOU!
THE AMBIANCE FROM THE STINKING ALCOHOL AND CIGARETTES WAS HEIGHTENED BY THE SONGS BLASTING FROM THE PHONOGRAPH
SHE WAS STANDING THERE

AND IN THE MIDST OF THE GLEAMING WHITE POWDERED FACES OF THE OTHER BARMAIDS... UNDER THE GLOW OF THE RED BLUE, AND YELLOW LIGHTS.

IS THAT THE TRUE YOU?
SIR!!
SIR...
IT'S YOU... BUT IT'S NOT REALLY YOU
THE PERSON I SEE OVER THERE
HOHOHO
PWAHAHA
THAT'S ENOUGH! YOU'VE BEEN STARING AT "S-YO" EVER SINCE YOU WALKED IN THE DOOR!
WHISH
SHE ACTS LIKE SHE'S ALL MODERN WITH THAT STUPID LOUISE BROOKS HAIRCUT BUT SHE CAME TO THE CITY ONLY HALF A YEAR AGO!
LOUISE BROOKS
WHAT?! DID YOU JUST CALL HER CLUELESS?!
ARE YOU TRYING TO TELL ME THAT YOU PREFER THAT CLUELESS COUNTRY BUMPKIN?!
GRR GRR
REFUSES TO LET GO OF HER HAND
"S-YO?"
THAT MUST BE THE NAME SHE USES WHEN SHE'S AT THE CAFE

KYACK!
DON'T YOU WANNA GO SOMEPLACE QUIET WITH ME ONCE I M OFF WORK?
LET'S CHANGE THE SUBJECT YOU FREE TONIGHT?
HALF A YEAR AGO... NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT WASN'T THAT AROUND THE TIME WE FIRST MET?
HA?
ALL YOU CAN MANAGE TO DO IS GO ON ABOUT "S YO," "S-YO!"
REALLY THIS IS THAT SERIOUS TO YOU?!
EHHH ?!
IS.. IS SHE DOING THIS KIND OF THING, TOO?
PLEASE, JUST TELL ME! I NEED TO KNOW IF THIS IS WHAT SHE'S DOING I NEED THE TRUTH
TIP! IT'S FOR A TIP!!
THAT GOES WITHOUT SAYING.
"S YO" C MERE FOR A SECOND!
IF YOU'RE REALLY DYING TO KNOW WHY DON'T YOU GO ASK HER YOUR SELF? YOU CAN CALL HER OVER TO YOUR TABLE.
ARRGH
WHIRL
THANKS
ACK! THAT MUCH?!
AH
HERE
R. REALLY? YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY WITH THAT?
WHIRL


AND WHEN YOU GROW TIRED OF THAT LOTUS FLOWER, COME REST ON THE SAKURA FLOWER
MY MASTER WANTS YOUR PLEASURE TO MEET YOU!
BUTTERFLY BUTTERFLY COME SIT ON A LOTUS FLOWER
HUH? OH THERE SHE GOES AGAIN BREAKING OUT HER USUAL BAG OF TRICKS

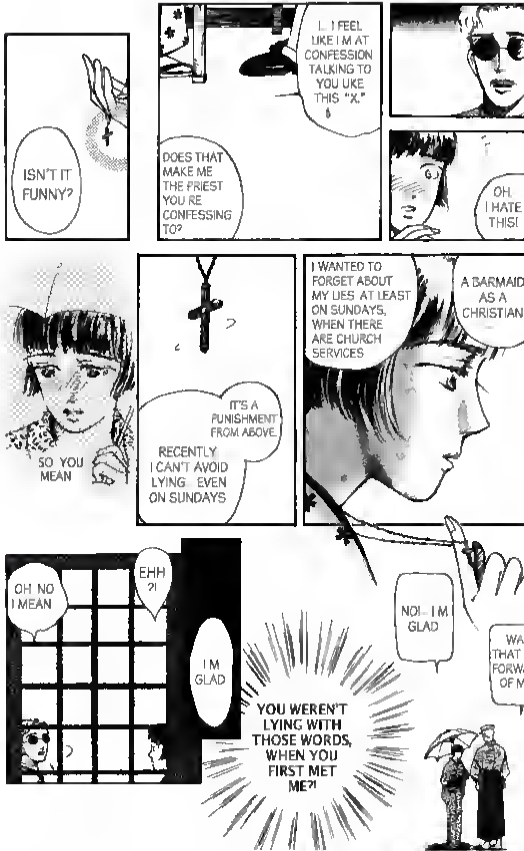
AH. I SEE... IT'S EMBARRASSING BUT WELL, THIS IS MY FIRST TIME AT A CAFE.. LIKE THIS.
ONCE SHE REALIZES THAT IT'S A HOPELESS CAUSE SHE'LL SNATCH UP YOUR TIP AND THEN GO OVER TO THE NEXT CUSTOMER SHE SEES. SORRY ABOUT THAT

*IN JAPAN THE TERM BUTTERFLY IMPLIES A WOMAN WHO MAY USE HER SENSUAL CHARMS TO SEDUCE A MAN FOR HIS MONEY.

I... I AM... "X."
IT'S ME.
WELL, IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU MY NAME IS "S YO
HUHUHU
AW DON'T SAY SUCH THINGS! YOU MAKE ME WANT TO LIE ABOUT MYSELF
IT'S ME.
ARE YOU ALSO A BUTTERFLY, LIKE HER?!
WHY DID YOU BECOME A BARMAID?
I JUST LEFT MY HOME IN THE COUNTRYSIDE, ONLY ABOUT SIX MONTHS AGO
SO I DON'T REALLY GET TO ROAM AROUND BY MYSELF YET
YES, LIKE SHE SAID...

THEN WHAT DO YOU TELL THEM?
OH WELL.. IT'S JUST THAT ALL THE CUSTOMERS USUALLY ASK THAT SAME QUESTION
KEKE
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
THEY TELL ME "YOU'RE TRYING HARD CHIN UP!" AND THEN THEY HAND ME A FAT TIP
WHAT I MEAN IS- IF I TELL THAT STORY NICE PEOPLE LIKE YOU, "X," COMPLETELY FALL FOR IT
HU HU HU HU
I WAS TRICKED BY A MAN WHEN I WAS 17 YEARS OLD AND HAD A BABY... SO WHEN THERE WAS NO WAY FOR ME TO STAY IN MY LITTLE VILLAGE I DECIDED TO MOVE UP TO TOKYO I HAD NO EDUCATION, BUT I HAD TO RAISE MY INFANT CHILD. I NEEDED THE MONEY SO TERRIBLY I ENDED UP WORKING HERE.
EHHHH?
SNIFFLE SNIFFLE
THIS MAY BE A LIE, TOO
BECAUSE YOU HAVE LIED TO ME IN MANY WAYS.
REALLY CAN YOU TRUST ME?
SO THEN.. THAT LONG STORY YOU JUST TOLD ME WAS JUST...
OF COURSE! ALL THAT STUFF ABOUT THE CHILD AND THE MAN WAS JUST MY OWN CREATION
CAN'T CLOSE HIS JAW-DROPPED MOUTH

YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BELIEVE ANY SWEET WORDS
ILLUMINATES EVEN THE FALSEST LIES
EVERYBODY HERE IS A LIAR
THIS PLACE
WELL, IF YOU RE SO USED TO LYING I'M SURE IT DOESN'T BOTHER YOU ANY MORE.
ARE YOU A LIAR, TOO?
.. IT'S NOT LIKE THAT EITHER.
YES
SOMETIMES IT MAKES ME FEEL LIKE IT WOULD BE BETTER TO TELL THE TRUTH
ESPECIALLY OF LATE
I FEEL A LOT OF GUILT INSIDE ME


ISN'T IT FUNNY?
I... I FEEL LIKE I'M AT CONFESSION TALKING TO YOU LIKE THIS "X."
DOES THAT MAKE ME THE PRIEST YOU'RE CONFESSING TO?
OH, I HATE THIS!
SO YOU MEAN
IT'S A PUNISHMENT FROM ABOVE. RECENTLY I CAN'T AVOID LYING EVEN ON SUNDAYS
I WANTED TO FORGET ABOUT MY LIES AT LEAST ON SUNDAYS, WHEN THERE ARE CHURCH SERVICES
A BARMAID AS A CHRISTIAN
OH NO I MEAN
EHH ?!
I'M GLAD
NO!... I'M GLAD
WAS THAT TOO FORWARD OF ME?
YOU WEREN'T LYING WITH THOSE WORDS, WHEN YOU FIRST MET ME?!

THAT'S HIS NAME
SORRY?
IS
THE MAN WHO'S SITTING HERE WITH YOU NOW—
I MEAN...
THIS GIRL HAS BEEN TALKING TO "X" THIS WHOLE TIME!
WHY HAVE YOU BEEN TELLING SUCH PERSONAL STORIES TO SOMEONE LIKE ME?
AND IN SUCH AN INTIMATE MANNER?
SO HONESTLY TOO...

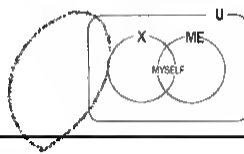
HA-HA
I WONDER WHY..
YOU'RE RIGHT
THE PERSON SHE'S CHOSEN TO OPEN UP TO...
IS A ROOKIE CUSTOMER NAMED "X"
IT'S NOT ME HER LOVER
WHAT'S WRONG?
THE MOVIE'S ALREADY OVER
AH

HUH? COME ON GIVE ME SOMETHING YOU RE BEING STRANGE.
YOU RE LYING!
OH NO IT S NOTH ING
WHAT S WRONG? IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?
N NO WHAT DO YOU MEAN, SECRETS?
UM... WHAT S THAT OVER THERE?
MAYBE I'LL FESS UF AFTER YOU TELL ME YOUR SECRETS
SEEE... CRET
THAT'S JUST CRUEL!
I WAS ANGRY THINKING TO MYSELF "BUT YOU TOLD 'X EVERYTHING!"
JUST NOW I WAS JEALOUS OF MYSELF

QUESTION 2. STATE THE CURRENT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN X AND MYSELF

ANSWER $X \neq ME$

X IS NOT EQUAL TO ME.



UNION
ER
WHAT'S WRONG?
WHAT IS IT?
"X." I...
EEK!
S... SORRY
I, I FEEL
I'M SORRY. I KNOW SOMEONE WHO HAS THE SAME VOICE AS YOU. "X." I MUST HAVE SPACED OUT BECAUSE OF THAT.

WHAT A FOOL I VE BEEN

WHAAAT?!
BOLT!
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
THE MAN WHO S STANDING HERE, RIGHT NOW
IT S ME... BUT IT S ALSO NOT ME.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, WHAT'S THE MATTER?!
!!
AH...
D- DID I SAY SOMETHING STRANGE, JUST NOW?

DON'T DO IT! DON'T OPEN YOURSELF UP TO ANYONE ELSE BUT ME!
MAYBE I CAN GIVE YOU SOME ADVICE
DON'T TELL ME ANYTHING.
B...BUT DID SOMETHING HAPPEN BETWEEN YOU TWO? IF YOU DON'T MIND MY ASKING WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME?
I DON'T KNOW HOW BUT... I'VE GOTTEN TIRED
EVEN IF I, MYSELF, AM "X."
I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT WAS, BUT I HAD A FEELING THAT THINGS WOULD TURN OUT LIKE THIS FROM THE MOMENT THAT I COULDN'T TELL HIM THE TRUTH
WORKING AT THIS CAFE, OR TELLING HIM WHERE I REALLY LIVE
I WAS HAPPY TO BE TREATED LIKE A NORMAL GIRL WHEN HE TOLD ME HE HAD FEELINGS FOR ME
...BUT I'M GLAD THAT I CAN END IT BEFORE HE REALIZES WHO I REALLY AM

WELL, IF THAT S THE PROBLEM WHY DON'T YOU JUST TELL HIM THE TRUTH?
I MEAN IF YOU STILL HAVE FEELINGS FOR HIM.
HE S THE KIND OF PERSON WHO CAN'T LIE TO ANYONE BUT HE S EVEN LESS CAPABLE OF LYING TO HIMSELF
I MEAN
I JUST CAN'T
"MY FATHER FOUND OUT ABOUT US."
"HE TOLD ME THAT I CAN'T MEET YOU ANYMORE"
"IT BREAKS MY HEART BUT WE HAVE TO SAY GOODBYE."
THAT S NOT TRUE.
EVEN IF HE TELLS ME THINGS WON T WORK OUT THE WAY HE THINKS THEY WILL IT'S OKAY,

IT'S THE BEST WAY BEING SCORNED AND SAYING GOODBYE WOULD BE TOO PAINFUL.
WHY WORRY ABOUT THAT?
GOOD-BYE..?!
DO YOU HAVE A REASON THAT YOU THINK HE'D SCORN YOU?
NO, I DON'T.
WHIRL
I DON'T HAVE ANY REASON.. BUT HE WON'T BELIEVE ME, RIGHT?! AND HE'LL JUST WANT TO PICK AT MY LIES, WON'T HE?

I LIKED HER VIEW IN PROFILE.

HER FACE LOOKED AS IF IT WAS GAZING AT THE SKY

AH..

NO WHAT I JUST SAID WAS A LIE IT WAS ALL A LIE.

YOU SEE. I AM A LIAR.

ARE YOU REALLY OKAY WITH THAT?

IS IT REALLY OKAY THAT YOU'LL TELL ME NOTHING. AND JUST ..

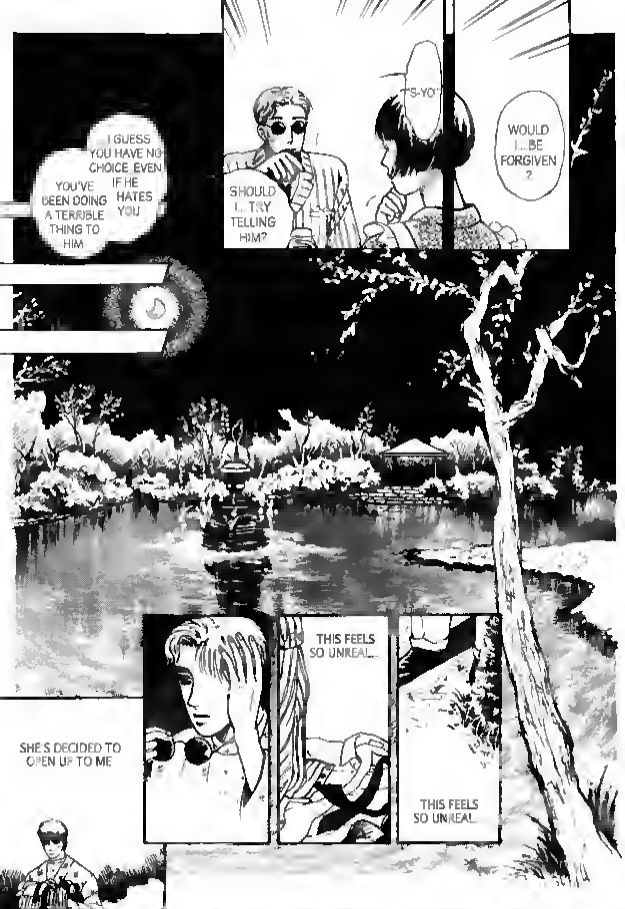
DON'T CRY

I'M REALLY THE EXCEPTIONAL LIAR, HERE.

"S-YO "

I THINK HE COULD FORGIVE YOU BECAUSE. THE PERSON YOU RE TALKING TO IS A HARMLESS LIAR
TELL ME WHAT ?
GUESS
I SHOULD PROBABLY TELL YOU THIS
I MEAN ABOUT YOUR LOVER.
IF YOU RE SAYING THAT YOU CAN T TELL HIM THE TRUTH I HAVE NO PROBLEM TALKING TO HIM FOR YOU
WH WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
KEKE
I M FINE WITH ANYTHING EVEN IF SHE IS A BARMAID
YOU'RE ODD "X"
YOU SAY THAT THIS PLACE IS ONLY FULL OF LIES BUT I SAW THAT YOUR FEELINGS WEREN T A LIE
I WON'T MAKE THINGS ANY WORSE.

HA HA HA
YEAH I IT'S JUST BECAUSE I'M THE PRIEST OF YOUR CONFESSION BOOTH
TH THAT'S..
WHY ARE YOU SO GOOD TO ME?
DO THE THINGS THAT "Y-KO" DOES
I I DON'T
I'M SORRY
SO YOU OFFERED THAT OUT OF CONCERN FOR ME
ONCE I'M OFF WORK?
DON'T YOU WANNA GO SOMEPLACE QUIET WITH ME
Y-KO
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
I.. I NEVER MEANT
IS THERE ACTUALLY A BASTARD WHO OFFERS YOU ADVICE ON THOSE CONDITIONS?!

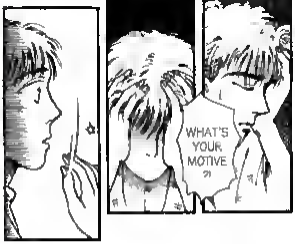

...I GUESS YOU HAVE NO CHOICE. EVEN IF HE HATES YOU
YOU'VE BEEN DOING A TERRIBLE THING TO HIM
SHOULD I... TRY TELLING HIM?
"S-YO"
WOULD I...BE FORGIVEN ?
THIS FEELS SO UNREAL...
THIS FEELS SO UNREAL...
SHE'S DECIDED TO OPEN UP TO ME

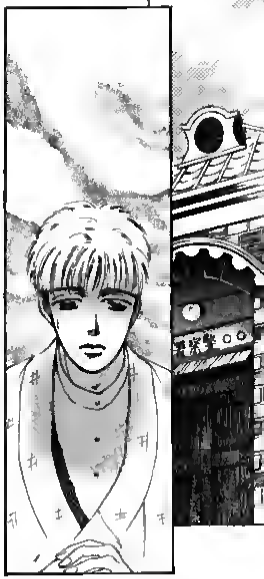
FOREVER.
GOODBYE, "XI"
KER-SPLOOSH
HEY!
JUST ANOTHER CUSTOMER.
I DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING
DID YOU HEAR THAT NOISE? WHAT COULD IT BE?
I'M GONNA GO LOOK.
LIAR! IT SOUNDED LIKE SOMETHING FELL INTO THE POND
EEP
"Y KO." HOW CAN YOU RUN OFF?! WE RE ABOUT TO
TUNADA

WAIT! ARE YOU TRYING TO RUN AWAY AGAIN?!
YOU HAD A CUTLET CURRY RICE AND COCKTAIL AFTER COCKTAIL!
UGH! REALLY YOU CHEAP JERK!
KEKE
HUH? IT S "Y KO " DID SHE REEL ONE IN AGAIN?
THAT S NOT IT!
IS THAT MAN SOMEONE YOU KNOW?
N NO
HEHE... I GUESS SHE HASN'T REALIZED THAT "X" IS ME.

KYAAAAA
WH WHAT ARE THOSE?!
IT'S A PERSON!
SOMEONE'S FLOATED UP TO THE SURFACE OF THE POND!
DO THEY LOOK FAMILIAR TO YOU! "Y KO?"
MR. "XI!"
THOSE CLOTHES
WHAT IS IT?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
OH MY GOD!!
EYAAGH?!
THOSE BELONG TO MR. "XI" HE'S A CUSTOMER OF OURS!
HAS SOMETHING HAPPENED HERE?!
WAS THERE A MURDER?!
SOMEBODY, CALL THE POLICE!!

THAT MAN!!
CATCH HIM, SOMEBODY!
W WHAT DO I DO NOW?
IT S THAT MAN OVER THERE
THIS HAS BLOWN UP INTO A HUGE THING.
EHHHH?!
THAT MAN IS THE KILLER!
NO, THERE'S A REASON WHY ..
EWAAAAAH! HELP~~!
WAIT! I'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING!
N, NO



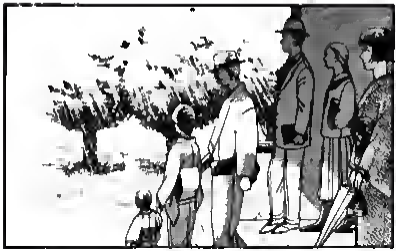


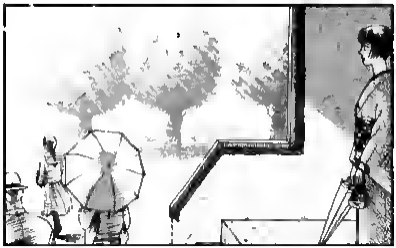
AH

* SIGN READS "POLICE"

SUNDAY WHY DO YOU ASK?
GIMME BACK MY WEEKEND!
WHAT'S TODAY...
WHAT DAY IS IT?
I HAVE TO GO
BOLT
LET ME GO, I MUST GO TO CHURCH TODAY!!
W. WAIT WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
ACK!
WHOA A CHRISTIAN ARE YOU? SHOULD WE CALL YOUR PRIEST ON YOUR EXECUTION DATE?
I CAN'T BELIEVE THINGS HAVE GOTTEN SO OUT OF HAND...!
EH?
SLAP
SLAP

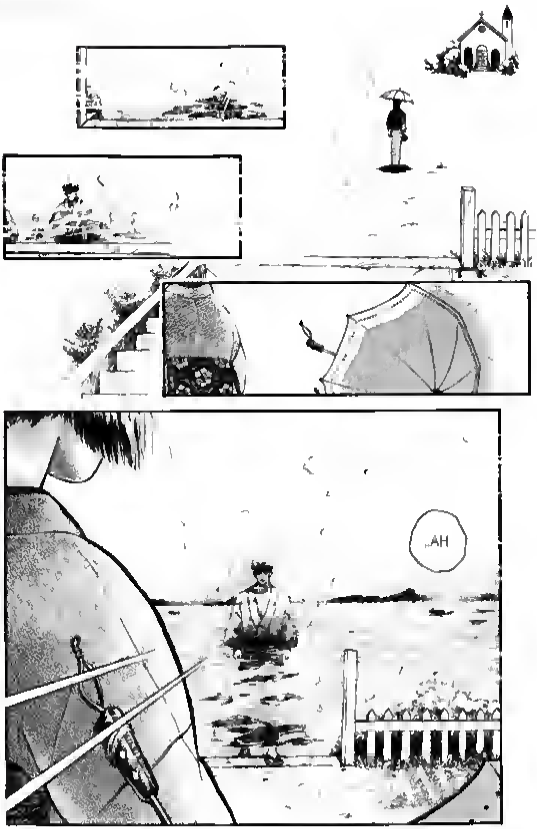
SORRY FOR CAUSING SO MUCH CHAOS
SIGH
HAAH
YOU GOT IT?! NEVER DO SOMETHING SO STUPID, EVER AGAIN! YOU RE AN IMPOSSIBLE YOUNG MAN!
YOUR LOVER'S WAITING FOR YOU!
OKAY WELL C'MON! GET GOING! GO ALREADY
Aki Don't You Come Back, EVER AGAIN!

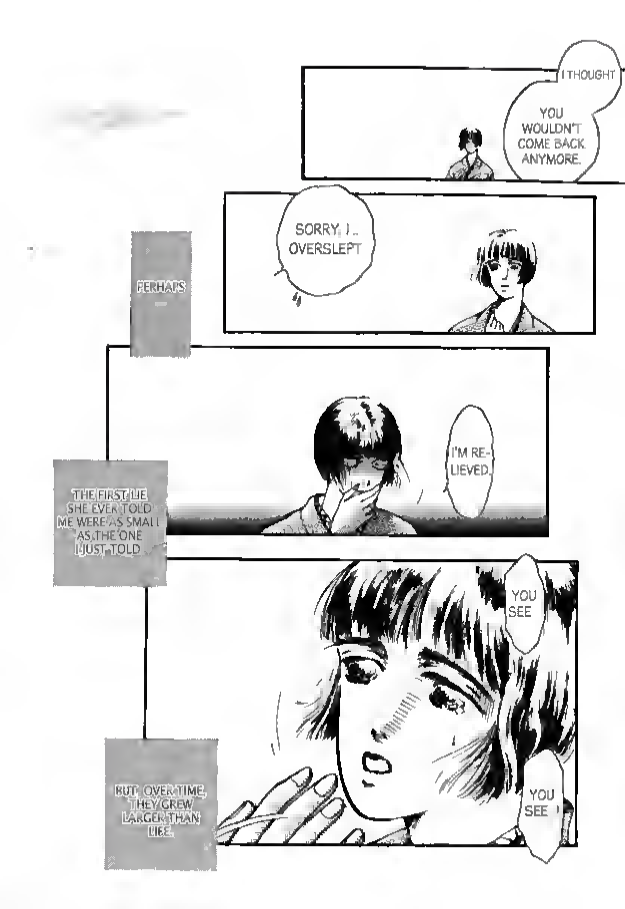




SHE MAY NOT BE WAITING FOR ME.

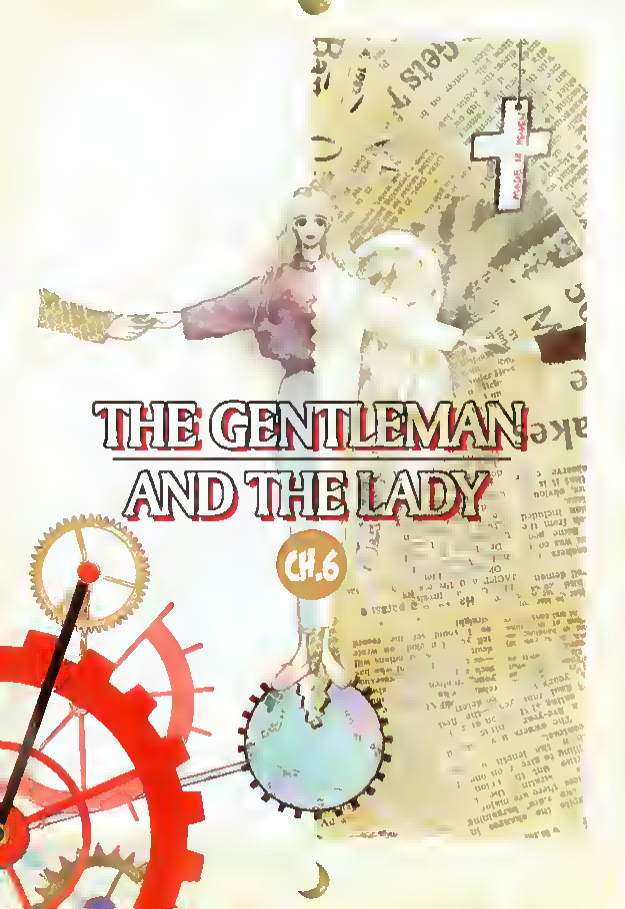
IS THAT SO?
WILL IT BE OKAY..?
IT'S GOD'S DAY HE'LL BE BACK NEXT WEEK.
PARDON?
IT'S NOTHING
BYE.


AH

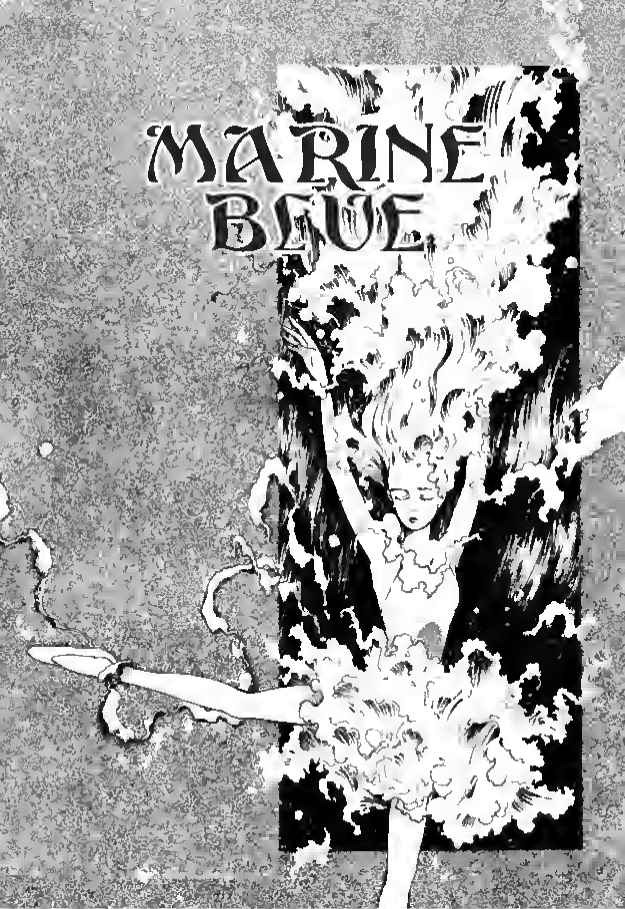

I THOUGHT
YOU WOULDN'T COME BACK ANYMORE.
SORRY, I OVERSLEPT
PERHAPS
I'M RELIEVED.
THE FIRST LIE SHE EVER TOLD ME WERE AS SMALL AS THE ONE I JUST TOLD
YOU SEE
YOU SEE
BUT, OVER TIME, THEY GREW LARGER THAN LIFE.

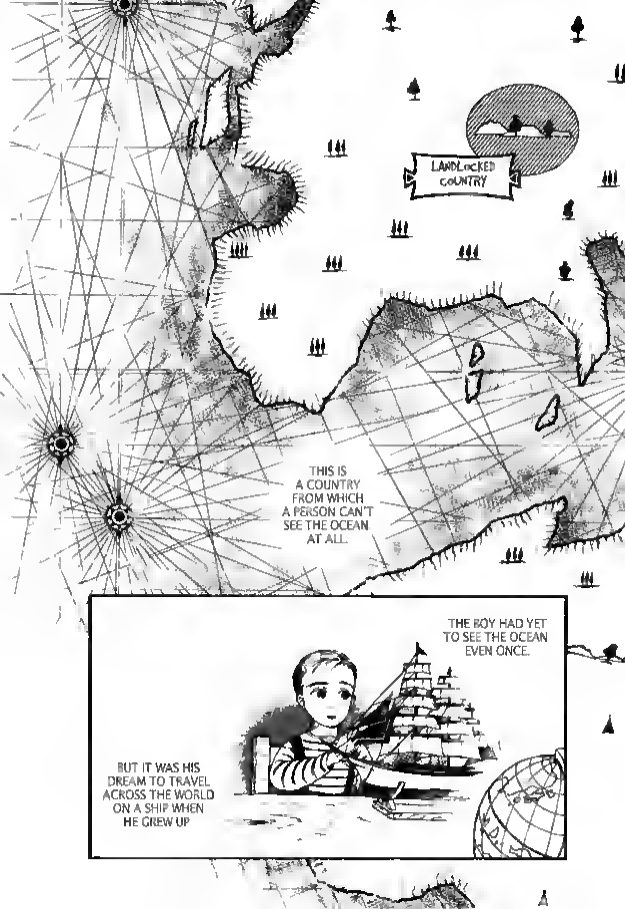
QUESTION 3 STATE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MYSELF AND X.

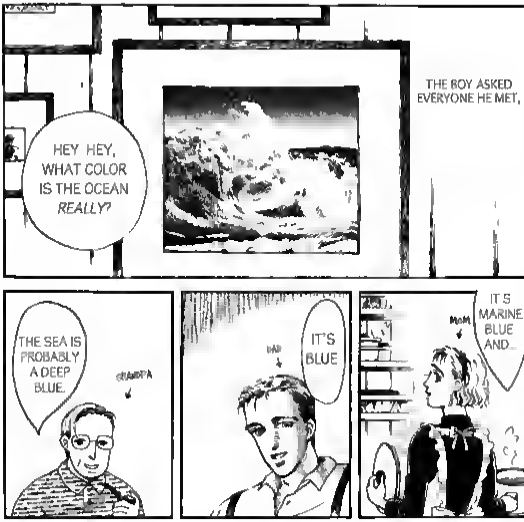
ANSWER


THE GENTLEMAN
AND THE LADY
CH.6

MARINE BLUE

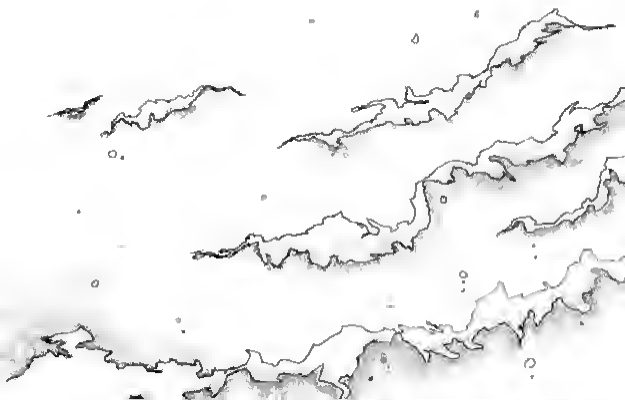



LANDLOCKED COUNTRY
THIS IS A COUNTRY FROM WHICH A PERSON CAN'T SEE THE OCEAN AT ALL.
THE BOY HAD YET TO SEE THE OCEAN EVEN ONCE.
BUT IT WAS HIS DREAM TO TRAVEL ACROSS THE WORLD ON A SHIP WHEN HE GREW UP


HEY HEY, WHAT COLOR IS THE OCEAN *REALLY?*
THE BOY ASKED EVERYONE HE MET,
THE SEA IS PROBABLY A DEEP BLUE.
GRANDPA
DAD
IT'S BLUE
MOM
IT'S MARINE BLUE AND...
HOWEVER, THE ONE THING EVERYONE AGREED ON WAS THAT
PANIC!
BECAUSE EVERY SINGLE PERSON TOLD HIM THE OCEAN WAS A DIFFERENT COLOR.
THE SEA WAS BLUE.
THE BOY BECAME CONFUSED

MARINE BLUE, BLUE,
DEEP BLUE.

THE OCEAN...
THE SEA... IS BLUE?



NO NOT AS BLUE AS THE SKY
BLUE AS THE SKY?
NO IT S NOT AS BLUE AS THE POND S CALM BLUE.
BLUE AS THE POND NEAR OUR HOUSE?
REACH FOR THE SKY!
UGH~!
BLUE AS MY FAVORITE SWEATER?
NO NO
WHERE NOTHING AT ALL RESEMBLED THE COLOR OF THE SEA
FOR THE BOY LIVED IN A HOUSE DEEP IN THE FOREST
THESE QUESTIONS WEREN T SO UNNATURAL

THE BOY'S MOTHER TOLD HIM TO PRAY TO GOD WHEN THERE WERE THINGS THAT TROUBLED HIM
DEAR LORD...
SO HE PRAYED EVERY NIGHT
TEACH ME THE COLOR OF THE OCEAN! PLEASE GOD

THEN AS THE CLOCK'S MINUTE HAND WAS INCHING FROM CHRISTMAS EVE TOWARDS CHRISTMAS DAY..
UHP!
I WONDER WHAT DAD'S GONNA GET ME THIS YEAR!

KNOCK
KNOCK

WH...WHO ARE YOU, MISTER?!
TODAY'S CHRISTMAS! CAN'T YOU GUESS BY MY UNIFORM
AHEM!
SA
SANTA CLAUS!
MERRY CHRISTMAS, KIDDO!

WHOA~ WHAT IS THIS? IT'S WEIRD! DOES IT MOVE??
IT'S THE LATEST MODEL, SO YES IT MOVES JUST FINE
MY FRIEND NEXT DOOR TOLD ME THAT GROWN UPS JUST SAY HE EXISTS TO HAVE FUN!
UM THERE'S NO SANTA, MISTER.
EH EH
THEY PARTY UNTIL LATE AT NIGHT DRINKING SAKE...
.. MY WISHES ..?
EYA-HAHA!
EYAAAGH! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
GRAB
YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT COLOR THE SEA IS, DON'T YOU?
I CAME ALL THE WAY HERE FROM THE NORTH POLE JUST TO MAKE HIS WISHES COME TRUE!
HEY DID YOU SEE THAT, JESUS?! KIDS NOWADAYS DON'T EVEN TRY TO BELIEVE!
BOOM

YOU KNOW HOW FERVENTLY YOU TALKED TO ME ABOUT IT?
I DISCUSSED IT WITH MY FRIEND SANTA. HERE, AND WE DECIDED TO GRANT THAT WISH FOR YOU AS A CHRISTMAS GIFT!
SOB
H HOW DID YOU KNOW?
SANTA'S GIFT IS TO SAY THANK YOU FOR THOSE CELEBRATIONS.
TODAY'S MY BIRTHDAY AND EVERYBODY CELEBRATES IT FOR ME.
WH ..WHO ARE YOU MISTER?
OH BOY..
WHO HAVE YOU BEEN PRAYING TO FOR ALL THESE YEARS?

GRIN
HA
HEAVEN ?!
GOD ?!
?
YOU'RE REALLY GOD?!
REALLY? FOR REAL?!
GRIP
AW THAT'S ENOUGH
YOU AREN'T REALLY GOD! YOU WON'T EVEN TELL ME RIGHT AWAY!
WATCH FOR IT
YOU'LL LEARN, SOON ENOUGH
YEAH. THEN TELL ME!
TELL ME NOW! WHAT COLOR IS IT?

YOU LIARS!
BAP
KIDDO THAT'S BECAUSE
HU HU HU
SHOULD WE GET GOING NOW "PHONY" SANTA?
SHHH
JESUS WHAT ARE YOU..?!
WELL, I GUESS WE HAVE NO CHOICE, NOW THAT OUR COVER'S BLOWN!
WH WHAT ARE YOU DOING LITTLE BOY?
HUH?
W WAIT!
IS THIS ALL A JOKE?? WERE YOU FOR REAL?
OF COURSE, KIDDO!
ACK!
ZOOM
YOU'RE FLYING?!

I HOPE YOU'LL FIND OUT SOMEDAY...
HUH? WAIT!
WAIT...

WHAT'S THE MATTER, SWEETIE?
AHAH IS THAT IT?
IT'S JUST A TYPICAL KID'S DREAM— NOT AN AMAZING STORY OR ANYTHING
OH NOTHING JUST A DREAM I USED TO HAVE WHEN I WAS LITTLE IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE HAD IT LATELY THOUGH
IS WHAT IT?

NO.., I WONDER WHY LOOKING AT YOUR FACE BROUGHT IT BACK TO ME
WH.. WHAT IS IT? WHY ARE YOU STARING AT ME LIKE THAT?
HUH? DO I HAVE SOMETHING ON MY FACE?
GOD MOST SURELY KEPT HIS PROMISE.
C'MON YOU HAVE TO GET UP! IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY OUTSIDE.
LOOK.
TAKE A CLOSE LOOK.
AT THE COLOR OF HER EYES.